Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 10 October 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

The number of jobless workers in Washington State fell below 200,000 for the first time in 23 months. Unemployment in September totaled 188,200, down 13,000 from August and 42,000 lower than in September 1982. The jobless rate dropped from 9.9 percent in August to 9.2 percent in September which was the lowest rate of the year. The unemployment rate one year ago was 11.3 percent.

The improvement in the state's labor market this September largely resulted from the beginning of a new school year, the Western Washington Fair, and the apple harvest. The apple harvest alone employed an estimated 17,000 workers in mid-September. Nonfarm wage and salary employment moved up 25,500 between August and September.

	Sept. 1983*	Aug. 1983*	Sept. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,052,700	2,041,400	2,028,800
Employment	1,864,500	1,840,200	1,798,600
Unemployment	188,200	201,200	230,200
State Rate	9.2	9.9	11.3
National Civilian Rate	8.8	9.2	9.7

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

The largest gain occurred in public education where employment rose 16,300 because of the reopening of schools. The increase mainly represented the rehiring of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other nonteaching staff. Most teachers are paid on a twelve-month basis and are considered employed all year. Other sizable gains included an increase of 4,500 in transportation-public utilities, 4,000 in services and 2,100 in retail trade. The gain in transportation-public utilities mainly resulted from the settlement of the labor dispute in the telephone industry. The reopening of private schools and temporary amusement jobs at the Western Washington Fair accounted for most of the gain in services. Retail trade added workers because of back-to-school sales and temporary jobs at food stands and restaurants at the fair.

Manufacturing employment rose 1,800 in September. Food products payrolls jumped 1,700 with plants processing corn, potatoes, late vegetables and making juice. Aerospace employment fell 300 in September, but this was the industry's smallest monthly drop this year.

Over-the-year nonfarm wage and salary employment advanced 13,000. Growth would have been considerably larger had it not been for a drop of 17,400 jobs in transportation equipment. Aerospace accounted for 11,200 of the loss while other transportation equipment payrolls fell 6,200 with most of the loss due to a labor dispute in shipbuilding. The strike, which has since been settled, involved 4,300 workers. Industries credited with substantial year-to-year job growth include trade (up 12,200) and services (up 9,500) in the nonmanufacturing category and lumber (up 1,800), aluminum (up 1,100), other durables (up 900), and chemicals (up 800) in manufacturing.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

The largest reductions in unemployment between August and September occurred in areas where the apple harvest was underway. Unemployment continued to decline in most metropolitan areas, but changes in unemployment levels were mixed in areas where lumbering is the major manufacturing activity. Demand for lumber has softened recently but remains much stronger than was the case last year. In Okanogan County, which is a major apple producer, the unemployment rate plunged from 17.2 percent in August to 11.1 percent in September as the apple harvest and related packing and shipping activity boosted employment from 14,410 to 16,670. In the Wenatchee area, another major apple producer, the jobless rate fell from 14.4 percent in August to 9.0 percent in September. In the Yakima area, which also produces apples but has a more diversified agricultural and industrial base, the drop in unemployment was substantial but not as great as in the Okanogan and Wenatchee areas. Yakima's jobless rate fell from 12.3 to 9.8 percent over the month with employment climbing from 77,200 to 83,700.

In the state's major metropolitan areas, the unemployment rate in the Seattle-Everett area fell from 9.2 to 8.7 percent between August and September, while the rate in the Tacoma Metropolitan Area fell from 10.8 to 10.5 percent. Should aerospace payrolls stabilize as expected, labor market conditions in the central Puget Sound area should improve substantially. In the Spokane Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate dropped from 8.4 to 8.1 percent over the month. Manufacturing employment has increased in Spokane County over the year.

In the lumber areas, the unemployment rate edged up from 12.8 to 12.9 percent in Grays Harbor County and rose from 13.0 to 13.4 percent in Pacific County. In contrast, the jobless rate in Mason County fell from 10.5 to 10.1 percent and Skamania County saw its rate drop from 14.9 to 14.0 percent.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment moved up 1,800 between August and September. Food products added 1,700 to post the largest increase. Food plants and canneries were processing corn, potatoes, late vegetables and making grape and apple juice. Primary metals payrolls rose 400 with 200 of the gain at aluminum plants. Further growth in aluminum employment is anticipated as producers respond to rising prices. The price for the metal was quoted at $.765 per pound for the week ended October 8, 1983, up from $.45 one year before. Other transportation equipment added 300 workers in September. Gains were reported by several shipyards not involved in labor disputes. The labor dispute in shipbuilding involved 4,300 workers at mid-September. The strike was settled in early October.

Aerospace employment fell 300 in September, but this was the industry's smallest monthly drop in 1983. Evidently, increasing orders for jet airliners are beginning to stabilize employment in the industry. Fabricated metal products payrolls were down 200 in September. The loss mainly occurred at one firm which is in the process of closing. Foreign competition was cited for the closure. Lumber employment also fell 200 in September. Logging payrolls rose, but employment was lower in plywood plants and sawmills. Approximately 600 workers were involved in labor disputes in the lumber industry in both August and September.

Manufacturing employment was down 14,600 over the year. The entire loss could be accounted for by a drop of 11,200 in aerospace and 6,200 in other transportation equipment. Approximately 4,300 of the loss in other transportation equipment resulted from a labor dispute which has since been settled. On the positive side, lumber employment was up 1,800 over the year despite a labor dispute involving 600 workers this September. Aluminum employment added 1,100 from its depressed year-earlier level. Growth at firms manufacturing instruments add 900 jobs in the other durable goods classification over the year. Employment in chemicals rose 800 between September 1982 and September 1983. Most of the growth in chemicals employment occurred in the Richland area.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

In the nonmanufacturing industries, the largest August-September change occurred in public education where employment rose 16,300 because of the beginning of a new school year. The increase would have been 700 greater except for a labor dispute. Most of the 16,300 increase represented the rehiring of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other nonteaching staff. Most teachers are paid on a twelve-month basis and are considered employed all year. The increase in public payrolls was partially offset by seasonal cutbacks at parks and forests. As a result, the over-the-month growth in government payrolls was pared to 12,300.

Payrolls in transportation and public utilities rose 4,500 between August and September. All of the increase, however, resulted from the settlement of the major strike in the telephone industry. Strikes involving approximately 300 other workers in the industry were active at mid-September. Services employment rose 4,000 in September. Payrolls at membership organizations, included in the service classification, declined because of the end of summer camps and other seasonal activities, but private education rose sharply with the beginning of a new school year. Employment in amusements also jumped because of the hundreds of temporary workers hired to operate rides and games at the Western Washington Fair.

Trade employment moved up 3,400 in September. Payrolls in the wholesale classification rose 1,300 because of seasonal growth at establishments packing and shipping the large 1983 apple crop. Employment in retail trade was up 2,100 in September. General merchandise and apparel store payrolls rose because of back-to-school sales. Employment at eating and drinking places was higher because of temporary jobs at restaurants and food stands at the Western Washington Fair and because of higher employment at private firms which have contracts with public schools to provide food services.

Major employment changes in the nonmanufacturing group over the year were in retail trade, up 11,200, and services, up 9,500. Other noteworthy changes included gains of 2,600 in construction, 2,300 in government and 2,200 in finance-insurance-real estate.

AREA WAGE SURVEY REPORT AVAILABLE

The Wage Analysis Unit of the Research and Analysis Branch recently completed an occupational wage survey in Whatcom County. The survey report, based on data from 176 establishments, presents wage ranges and averages for clerical and data processing occupations as well as occupations typical in specific industries such as restaurants, banks, nursing homes and retail stores. The report, titled "Whatcom County, Area Wage Survey, August 1983", is available on request from Research and Analysis, P.O. Box 46502, Seattle, Washington 98146. Phone (206) 764-6451.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Sep. 1983 (Prel.)	Aug. 1983 (Rev.)	Sep. 1982	Aug. 1982	Change: Aug. 83 to Sep. 83	Change: Sep. 82 to Sep. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	1,595.7	1,570.2	1,582.7	1,558.9	+25.5	+13.0
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	279.9	278.1	294.5	290.5	+1.8	-14.6
Durable Goods	189.5	189.4	203.5	203.7	+0.1	-14.0
Lumber & Wood Products	4/42.7	4/42.9	40.9	40.3	-0.2	+1.8
Furniture & Fixtures	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	+0.1	+0.3
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.0	0.0	+0.5
Primary Metal Industries	13.7	13.3	13.0	4/13.4	+0.4	+0.7
Aluminum Prod. & Processing	9.2	9.0	8.1	8.4	+0.2	+1.1
Fabricated Metal Products	9.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	-0.2	-0.1
Machinery	26.5	26.4	27.2	27.1	+0.1	-0.7
Machinery exc. Electrical	16.1	16.0	16.7	16.7	+0.1	-0.6
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.4	0.0	-0.1
Transportation Equipment	4/73.3	4/73.3	90.7	91.4	0.0	-17.4
Aerospace	61.7	62.0	72.9	73.8	-0.3	-11.2
Other Transp. Equipment	4/11.6	4/11.3	17.8	17.6	+0.3	-6.2
Other Durable Goods 2/	13.7	13.8	12.8	12.6	-0.1	+0.9
Nondurable Goods	90.4	88.7	91.0	86.8	+1.7	-0.6
Food & Kindred Products	34.8	33.1	36.6	32.3	+1.7	-1.8
Canned & Preserved Foods	14.8	13.5	16.5	12.2	+1.3	-1.7
Apparel & Other Text. Prod	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	0.0	+0.1
Paper & Allied Products	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.6	-0.1	-0.2
Printing & Publishing	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.8	+0.1	+0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.4	10.4	9.6	9.6	0.0	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 3/	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	0.0	+0.1
MINING & QUARRYING	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	-0.1	-0.3
CONSTRUCTION	81.0	4/81.1	78.4	78.8	-0.1	+2.6
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4/90.9	4/86.4	91.8	4/91.3	+4.5	-0.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	401.3	397.9	389.1	386.8	+3.4	+12.2
Wholesale Trade	101.6	100.3	100.6	100.6	+1.3	+1.0
Retail Trade	299.7	297.6	288.5	286.2	+2.1	+11.2
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE	93.2	93.5	91.0	91.4	-0.3	+2.2
SERVICES	333.7	329.7	324.2	319.6	+4.0	+9.5
GOVERNMENT	4/312.9	300.6	310.6	297.4	+12.3	+2.3
Federal	68.6	68.9	66.8	67.7	-0.3	+1.8
State & Local	4/244.3	231.7	243.8	229.7	+12.6	+0.5
Education	4/122.6	106.3	121.7	104.2	+16.3	+0.9
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)	5.9	10.0	0.0	0.3	-4.1	+5.9

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date Oct. 25, 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Benchmark 1982

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	September 1983 Preliminary 3/				August 1983 Revised				September 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,052,700	1,884,500	168,200	8.2	2,041,400	1,840,200	201,200	9.9	2,026,800	1,796,600	230,200	11.3
Bellingham SMSA	50,500	45,900	4,600	9.1	49,000	44,600	4,400	9.0	48,300	42,700	5,600	11.6
Bremerton SMSA	65,600	61,000	4,600	7.0	66,100	61,400	4,700	7.1	62,000	56,700	5,300	8.5
Olympia SMSA	57,500	51,500	6,000	10.4	58,000	51,700	6,300	10.9	54,900	48,400	6,500	11.8
Seattle-Everett SMSA	895,300	817,400	77,900	8.7	897,100	814,400	82,700	9.2	885,900	792,900	93,000	10.5
Spokane SMSA	154,900	142,400	12,500	8.1	154,200	141,300	12,900	8.4	152,500	134,500	18,000	11.8
Tacoma SMSA	193,500	173,100	20,400	10.5	188,200	167,800	20,400	10.8	190,900	167,000	23,900	12.5
Tri-Cities Area 2/	78,200	69,000	9,200	11.8	78,100	68,100	10,000	12.8	80,600	69,300	11,300	14.0
Yakima SMSA	92,800	83,700	9,100	9.8	88,000	77,200	10,800	12.3	88,700	78,700	10,000	11.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,200	33,840	3,360	9.0	37,640	32,230	5,410	14.4	37,960	33,500	4,460	11.7
Adams	8,350	7,570	780	9.3	8,340	7,240	1,100	13.2	7,450	6,820	630	8.5
Asotin	8,310	7,650	660	7.9	8,130	7,450	680	8.4	8,400	7,410	990	11.8
Clallam	20,030	17,910	2,120	10.6	19,890	17,750	2,140	10.8	19,900	16,690	3,210	16.1
Clark	92,560	85,290	7,270	7.9	93,460	85,880	7,580	8.1	94,400	84,560	9,840	10.4
Columbia	2,540	2,310	230	9.1	2,490	2,290	200	8.0	2,440	2,180	260	10.7
Cowlitz	33,170	29,330	3,840	11.6	32,840	28,840	4,000	12.2	33,300	27,940	5,360	16.1
Ferry	2,460	2,190	270	11.0	2,410	2,100	310	12.9	2,490	1,980	510	20.5
Garfield	1,200	1,140	60	5.0	1,180	1,110	70	5.9	1,170	1,090	80	6.8
Grant	25,820	23,280	2,540	9.8	25,670	22,280	3,390	13.2	24,010	21,210	2,800	11.7
Grays Harbor	28,400	24,740	3,660	12.9	29,050	25,330	3,720	12.8	33,790	29,230	4,560	13.5
Island	15,130	13,850	1,280	8.5	15,030	13,800	1,230	8.2	15,060	13,530	1,530	10.2
Jefferson	6,770	6,240	530	7.8	6,860	6,290	570	8.3	6,770	6,060	710	10.5
Kittitas	10,440	9,380	1,060	10.2	10,080	9,080	1,000	9.9	10,070	8,930	1,140	11.3
Klickitat	7,060	6,370	690	9.8	6,970	6,180	790	11.3	7,060	6,070	990	14.0
Lewis	24,470	21,680	2,790	11.4	24,240	21,320	2,920	12.0	24,660	21,250	3,410	13.8
Lincoln	4,380	4,200	180	4.1	4,340	4,180	160	3.7	4,210	4,010	200	4.8
Mason	10,770	9,680	1,090	10.1	10,700	9,580	1,120	10.5	10,860	9,500	1,360	12.5
Okanogan	18,750	16,670	2,080	11.1	17,410	14,410	3,000	17.2	18,070	15,110	2,960	16.4
Pacific	7,550	6,540	1,010	13.4	7,720	6,720	1,000	13.0	7,290	6,270	1,020	14.0
Pend Oreille	3,160	2,660	500	15.8	3,190	2,640	550	17.2	3,270	2,480	790	24.2
San Juan	4,170	3,940	230	5.5	4,440	4,210	230	5.2	3,610	3,380	230	6.4
Skagit	33,230	29,830	3,400	10.2	34,320	30,850	3,470	10.1	32,080	27,690	4,390	13.7
Skamania	2,780	2,390	390	14.0	2,680	2,280	400	14.9	3,110	2,540	570	18.3
Stevens	11,600	10,180	1,420	12.2	11,550	10,060	1,490	12.9	11,980	9,980	2,000	16.7
Wahkiakum	1,150	1,060	90	7.8	1,240	1,090	150	12.1	1,430	1,340	90	6.3
Walla Walla	26,480	24,870	1,610	6.1	26,180	24,330	1,850	7.1	25,920	23,910	2,010	7.8
Whitman	16,380	15,870	510	3.1	14,560	14,040	520	3.6	14,450	13,800	650	4.5

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch.

October 25, 1983
Benchmark 1982

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 1983 Preliminary 3/				August 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,056,500	1,861,600	194,900	9.5	2,033,800	1,830,000	203,800	10.0
Bellingham SMSA	50,600	45,800	4,800	9.5	48,800	44,300	4,500	9.2
Bremerton SMSA	65,700	60,900	4,800	7.3	65,800	61,100	4,700	7.1
Olympia SMSA	57,600	51,400	6,200	10.8	57,800	51,500	6,300	10.9
Seattle-Everett SMSA	896,800	816,100	80,700	9.0	893,600	809,800	83,800	9.4
King County	706,900	645,000	61,900	8.8	704,700	640,000	64,700	9.2
Snohomish County	189,900	171,100	18,800	9.9	188,900	169,800	19,100	10.1
Spokane SMSA	155,200	142,200	13,000	8.4	153,500	140,500	13,000	8.5
Tacoma SMSA	194,000	172,900	21,100	10.9	187,500	166,900	20,600	11.0
Tri-Cities Area 2/	78,400	68,900	9,500	12.1	77,900	67,700	10,200	13.1
Yakima SMSA	93,000	83,600	9,400	10.1	87,700	76,800	10,900	12.4
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,270	33,790	3,480	9.3	37,530	32,050	5,480	14.6
Adams	8,370	7,560	810	9.7	8,310	7,200	1,110	13.4
Asotin	8,330	7,640	690	8.3	8,100	7,410	690	8.5
Clallam	20,080	17,880	2,200	11.0	19,820	17,650	2,170	10.9
Clark	92,680	85,160	7,520	8.1	93,080	85,400	7,680	8.3
Columbia	2,550	2,310	240	9.4	2,480	2,280	200	8.1
Cowlitz	33,270	29,290	3,980	12.0	32,730	28,680	4,050	12.4
Ferry	2,470	2,190	280	11.3	2,400	2,080	320	13.3
Garfield	1,210	1,140	70	5.8	1,180	1,110	70	5.9
Grant	25,880	23,250	2,630	10.2	25,590	22,160	3,430	13.4
Grays Harbor	28,490	24,700	3,790	13.3	28,960	25,190	3,770	13.0
Island	15,150	13,820	1,330	8.8	14,970	13,720	1,250	8.4
Jefferson	6,770	6,230	540	8.0	6,840	6,260	580	8.5
Kittitas	10,470	9,370	1,100	10.5	10,040	9,030	1,010	10.1
Klickitat	7,080	6,360	720	10.2	6,950	6,150	800	11.5
Lewis	24,540	21,650	2,890	11.8	24,150	21,200	2,950	12.2
Lincoln	4,380	4,190	190	4.3	4,320	4,160	160	3.7
Mason	10,790	9,660	1,130	10.5	10,670	9,530	1,140	10.7
Okanogan	18,790	16,640	2,150	11.4	17,370	14,330	3,040	17.5
Pacific	7,580	6,530	1,050	13.9	7,690	6,680	1,010	13.1
Pend Oreille	3,170	2,650	520	16.4	3,190	2,630	560	17.6
San Juan	4,180	3,940	240	5.7	4,420	4,190	230	5.2
Skagit	33,300	29,780	3,520	10.6	34,190	30,680	3,510	10.3
Skamania	2,780	2,380	400	14.4	2,680	2,270	410	15.3
Stevens	11,630	10,160	1,470	12.6	11,520	10,010	1,510	13.1
Wahkiakum	1,160	1,060	100	8.6	1,240	1,090	150	12.1
Walla Walla	26,520	24,640	1,880	7.1	26,070	24,200	1,870	7.2
Whitman	16,370	15,840	530	3.2	14,490	13,970	520	3.6

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

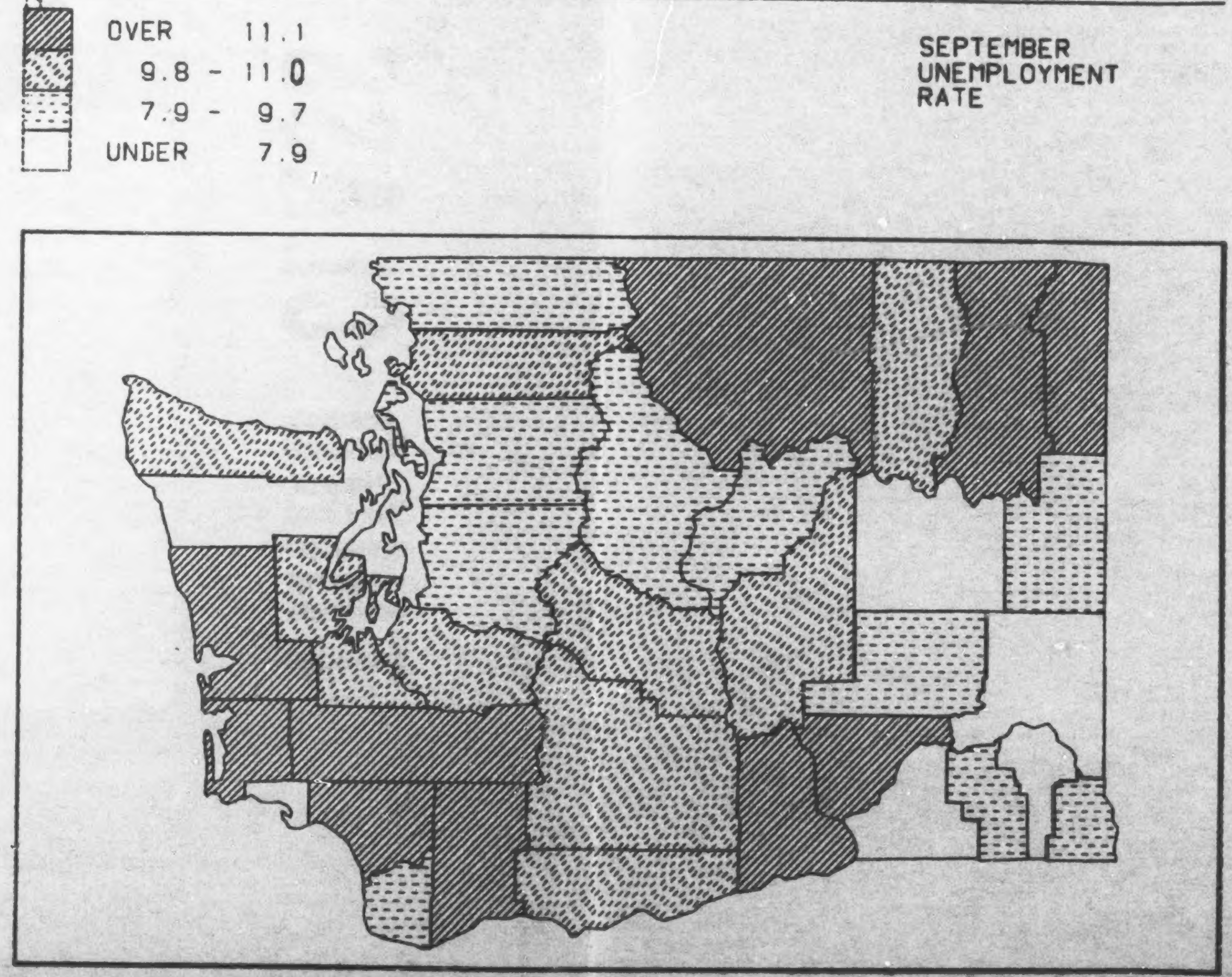
2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Aug. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average weekly earnings			Average Weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
		Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES................	177,200	$443.12	$447.76	$435.79	38.7	38.7	38.6	$11.45	$11.57	$11.29
Lumber and wood products..................	39,500	440.80	448.69	416.26	38.0	39.0	37.1	11.60	11.51	11.22
Primary metal industries..................	10,300	558.86	548.22	536.36	42.5	41.5	42.3	13.15	13.21	12.68
Fabricated metal products.................	7,500	500.12	514.59	488.43	40.3	41.6	40.5	12.41	12.37	12.06
Machinery 1/..............................	15,700	373.63	366.22	353.44	38.4	37.6	37.6	9.73	9.74	9.40
Transportation equipment..................	29,400	512.07	514.65	522.69	39.0	38.9	40.3	13.13	13.23	12.97
Food and kindred products.................	25,300	354.56	355.67	364.60	37.8	37.4	38.5	9.38	9.51	9.47
Chemicals and allied products.............	5,000	506.32	520.30	480.67	41.4	43.0	40.7	12.23	12.10	11.81
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction..............................	61,100	657.11	625.11	623.15	37.7	35.7	34.6	17.43	17.51	18.01
Wholesale and retail trade................	246,800	325.03	329.93	319.86	35.6	35.4	35.5	9.13	9.32	9.01

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.


▨ OVER 11.1
▨ 9.8 - 11.0
▨ 7.9 - 9.7
☐ UNDER 7.9

SEPTEMBER
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE

58340-3-1

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
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Olympia, WA 98504
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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 11 November 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment in Washington State rose from a revised 188,000 and 9.1 percent of the labor force in September to 194,800 and 9.5 percent in October. This was the first increase of the year and marked the beginning of seasonal reductions in agriculture, food processing, tourist business and outdoor activities. Despite the increase, however, unemployment in October was down 45,200 over the year, and the jobless rate of 9.5 percent was down from 11.9 percent in October 1982.

Total employment in the state dropped 13,100 from September to October. Nonfarm wage and salary employment lost only 3,000, but the reduction here was cushioned by the return to work of several hundred workers who were out on strike in September. (Workers involved in labor disputes are included in the total employment estimate but excluded from the wage and salary industry series.)

	Oct. 1983*	Sept. 1983*	Oct. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,049,400	2,055,700	2,024,300
Employment	1,854,600	1,867,700	1,784,300
Unemployment	194,800	188,000	240,000
State Rate	9.5	9.1	11.9
National Civilian Rate	8.4	8.8	9.9

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

Employment in public education posted a substantial gain in October as school districts and colleges continued hiring to round out their staffs for the new school year. Payrolls in other transportation equipment also posted a large gain, but only because of the settlement of the labor dispute in shipbuilding. In most other industries, employment dropped because of seasonal factors. Activity in construction and the lumber industry eased in October because of less favorable weather for outdoor work. Government laid off seasonal workers in forests, parks and outdoor recreation. Trade and services employed fewer workers because of the completion of the 1983 run of the Western Washington Fair and less tourist business. Cannery employment was also lower with major vegetable runs completed for the year.

In contrast to the seasonal decline in payroll employment between September and October, nonagricultural wage and salary employment was up 22,000 over the year in the latter month. The gain over the 12-month period was particularly impressive considering employment dropped over 10,000 in aerospace, the state's largest manufacturing industry. Economic recovery in the state will be boosted considerably in subsequent months if employment in the aerospace industry stabilizes as now expected. Industries credited with sizable year-to-year gains include lumber, trade, services and government.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

While the largest reductions in unemployment in September were in areas where the apple harvest was underway, some of the larger increases this month were in those same areas as the harvest wound down. Unemployment also increased in other agricultural areas and in counties where the lumber industry is the major source of manufacturing jobs.

In the Seattle Metropolitan Area where seasonality is less pervasive because agriculture and the lumber industry are relatively minor sources of employment, the jobless rate remained stable at 8.6 percent between September and October. Employment, in fact, rose 5,100 with payroll growth in trade, services and public education. The area's aerospace employment was relatively stable for the second month in a row. In other metropolitan areas, the jobless rate in the Tacoma area rose from 11.0 to 11.5 percent as trade and services employment dropped because of the completion of the 1983 run of the Western Washington Fair. In the Spokane Metropolitan Area the unemployment rate edged up from 7.9 to 8.1 percent.

The seasonal cutback in agricultural and related jobs resulted in larger increases in unemployment east of the Cascades. The jobless rate in Walla Walla County rose from 6.9 to 8.6 percent between September and October; Yakima County's rate moved up from 9.7 to 10.8 percent, while the rate in Grant County jumped from 9.7 to 10.6 percent. Seasonal reductions in the lumber industry boosted the jobless rate from 11.4 to 12.3 percent in Lewis County, from 11.6 to 12.6 percent in Cowlitz County, and from 10.5 to 12.5 percent in Clallam County. Jobless rates in nearly all areas, however, were substantially lower in October 1983 than in October 1982.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment rose 500 between September and October, but the increase mainly resulted from the settlement of a labor dispute in shipbuilding, which boosted employment in other transportation equipment 3,400 in October. Printing and publishing added 300 over the month for the only other sizable gain. Elsewhere in manufacturing, employment in lumber and wood products dipped 1,200 as the demand for lumber lessened with many builders now waiting until spring before starting new projects. Food products employers also employed 1,200 fewer workers in October. Most of the loss occurred at canneries, where work was completed on late vegetables such as corn in September. A loss of 300 occurred in aluminum, but it resulted from a labor dispute. The dispute was settled but not all of the workers were back on the job by mid-October. Aluminum employment should return to its prestrike level in November and continue to recover from cutbacks made during the recession. Two additional potlines will be reopened in November, according to newspaper reports, which will return the Vancouver Alcoa plant to full capacity. Chemicals employment dipped 200 in October. This loss resulted from the termination of college students who were hired for the summer as vacation-replacement workers.

Payrolls in aerospace are apparently beginning to stabilize. Employment in the industry, which dropped as much as 1,500 monthly earlier this year, fell only 100 in October following a loss of 300 in September. In late November, The Boeing Company announced year-to-date sales of 141 airplanes compared with 108 jetliners in 1982. The latest order was for twenty 757 jetliners from Northwest Airlines. The planes are scheduled for delivery between February 1985 and December 1986. The order should help to stabilize Boeing's employment, according to a firm spokesman.

Over the year, manufacturing employment in the state was down 9,100, but aerospace alone declined 10,400 in the 12-month period. Other transportation equipment dropped 2,900 year-to-year because shipbuilding has yet to return to its prestrike level. The only other large loss in manufacturing occurred in food products (off 2,000), but changes in employment levels in this industry are volatile even on a year-to-year basis.

On the positive side, lumber employment was up 2,500 over the year in October. Housing starts in the nation have declined in recent months but remain well above year-earlier levels. The homebuilding industry, of course, is the major market for lumber products. Aluminum employment rose 800 in the 12-month period with product demand strong, and the outlook for further gains bright. Other durables were also credited with a gain of 800 over the year as instrument manufacturers continued to expand. Chemicals added 700 workers year-to-year; most of the gain was in the Richland area.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

For the second successive month, the largest change in the nonmanufacturing industries was in public education. Employment in public education rose 14,100 in October as schools and colleges continued hiring to round out their staffs for the new school year. The employment gain in government, however, was limited to 8,600 as seasonal cutbacks at parks, forests, and in other outdoor jobs offset some of the growth in education.

Employment in retail trade fell 3,700 between September and October, while employment in services dropped 3,300. A major factor behind both losses was the seasonal decline in tourist business and the completion of the 1983 edition of the Western Washington Fair. The fair is the 10th largest in the United States and furnishes hundreds of temporary jobs at restaurants and food stands on the grounds and hundreds of additional jobs for persons running games, rides and staffing merchandise booths. Hundreds of other workers are also employed during the fair's run in September, including managers, security workers, clean-up crews, parking lot attendants, and gatekeepers.

A labor dispute involving 800 meat cutters was a factor in the September-October decline in trade employment too. Seasonal hiring by private schools, however, prevented an even larger loss in the services classification by offsetting losses in amusement and recreation, which largely resulted from the completion of the fair.

Wholesale trade dropped 1,400 from September, mainly because of seasonal reductions at fruit and vegetable warehouses. Seasonal losses also occurred in transportation-utilities (down 1,300) and construction (down 2,400). In construction, most builders will now wait until spring before starting major projects because of deteriorating weather.

Over the year, employment in trade (up 11,900) and services (up 11,400) continued to maintain substantial gains. Smaller expansions were credited to construction (up 2,300), finance-insurance-real estate (up 3,000), and government (up 2,900).

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The U. S. Department of Labor has issued a new list of labor surplus areas. This list is effective for a twelve month period from October 1, 1983 through September 30, 1984. Employers located in these areas are eligible for preference in Federal contract bids if they agree to perform at least 51 percent of the contract work within such areas. The purpose of the labor surplus area preference is to help guide a portion of the government's procurement dollars into those areas with the highest unemployment.

The labor surplus area classification is based on the area's unemployment rate for the previous two calendar years. The reference period used for this list was January 1981 through December 1982. To be included on this list, an area must have had an average unemployment rate of at least 10.0 percent during the two-year period.

The following areas in Washington State have been designated as "labor surplus areas" effective through September 30, 1984.

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS	CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED
ADAMS COUNTY	ADAMS COUNTY
ASOTIN COUNTY	ASOTIN COUNTY
BENTON COUNTY	BENTON COUNTY
CHELAN COUNTY	CHELAN COUNTY
CLALLAM COUNTY	CLALLAM COUNTY
CLARK COUNTY	CLARK COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY	COLUMBIA COUNTY
COWLITZ COUNTY	COWLITZ COUNTY
DOUGLAS COUNTY	DOUGLAS COUNTY
EVERETT CITY	EVERETT CITY IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY
FERRY COUNTY	FERRY COUNTY
FRANKLIN COUNTY	FRANKLIN COUNTY
GRANT COUNTY	GRANT COUNTY
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY	JEFFERSON COUNTY
KITTITAS COUNTY	KITTITAS COUNTY
KLICKITAT COUNTY	KLICKITAT COUNTY
LEWIS COUNTY	LEWIS COUNTY
MASON COUNTY	MASON COUNTY
OKANOGAN COUNTY	OKANOGAN COUNTY
PACIFIC COUNTY	PACIFIC COUNTY
PEND OREILLE COUNTY	PEND OREILLE COUNTY
BALANCE OF PIERCE COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY LESS TACOMA CITY
SKAGIT COUNTY	SKAGIT COUNTY
SKAMANIA COUNTY	SKAMANIA COUNTY

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS	CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED
BALANCE OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY	SNOHOMISH COUNTY LESS EVERETT CITY
SPOKANE CITY	SPOKANE CITY IN SPOKANE COUNTY
BALANCE OF SPOKANE COUNTY	SPOKANE COUNTY LESS SPOKANE CITY
STEVENS COUNTY	STEVENS COUNTY
TACOMA CITY	TACOMA CITY IN PIERCE COUNTY
THURSTON COUNTY	THURSTON COUNTY
WAHKIAKUM COUNTY	WAHKIAKUM COUNTY
WHATCOM COUNTY	WHATCOM COUNTY
YAKIMA COUNTY	YAKIMA COUNTY

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Oct. 1983 (Prel.)	Sep. 1983 (Rev.)	Oct. 1982	Sep. 1982	Change Sep. 83 to Oct. 83	Change Oct. 82 to Oct. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,596.4	1,599.4	1,574.4	1,582.7	-3.0	+22.0
TOTAL MANUFACTURING..............	281.0	280.5	290.1	294.5	+0.5	-9.1
Durable Goods....................	191.8	190.1	200.6	203.5	+1.7	-8.8
Lumber & Wood Products..........	42.1	43.3	39.6	40.9	-1.2	+2.5
Furniture & Fixtures............	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.0	0.0	+0.3
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod.......	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.9	0.0	+0.6
Primary Metal Industries........	13.3	13.6	12.8	13.0	-0.3	+0.5
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	8.9	9.2	8.1	8.1	-0.3	+0.8
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.8	9.9	9.7	10.0	-0.1	+0.1
Machinery......................	26.6	26.5	26.9	27.2	+0.1	-0.3
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	16.2	16.1	16.5	16.7	+0.1	-0.3
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.5	0.0	0.0
Transportation Equipment.......	76.7	4/73.4	90.0	90.7	+3.3	-13.3
Aerospace.....................	61.6	61.7	72.0	72.9	-0.1	-10.4
Other Transp. Equipment.......	15.1	4/11.7	18.0	17.8	+3.4	-2.9
Other Durable Goods 2/.........	13.6	13.7	12.8	12.8	-0.1	+0.8
Nondurable Goods................	89.2	90.4	89.5	91.0	-1.2	-0.3
Food & Kindred Products........	33.6	34.8	35.6	36.6	-1.2	-2.0
Canned & Preserved Foods......	13.7	14.8	15.8	16.5	-1.1	-2.1
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.9	-0.1	+0.1
Paper & Allied Products........	16.2	16.2	16.1	16.4	0.0	+0.1
Printing & Publishing..........	16.3	16.0	15.8	15.7	+0.3	+0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.2	10.4	9.5	9.6	-0.2	+0.7
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.8	0.0	+0.3
MINING & QUARRYING...............	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.2
CONSTRUCTION.....................	78.4	80.8	76.1	78.4	-2.4	+2.3
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	90.2	4/91.5	90.4	91.8	-1.3	-0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	4/396.3	401.4	384.4	389.1	-5.1	+11.9
Wholesale Trade.................	100.7	102.1	98.5	100.6	-1.4	+2.2
Retail Trade....................	4/295.6	299.3	285.9	288.5	-3.7	+9.7
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	93.2	93.2	90.2	91.0	0.0	+3.0
SERVICES.........................	330.8	334.1	319.4	324.2	-3.3	+11.4
GOVERNMENT.......................	323.7	315.1	320.8	310.6	+8.6	+2.9
Federal.........................	67.5	68.6	66.2	66.8	-1.1	+1.3
State & Local...................	256.2	246.5	254.6	243.8	+9.7	+1.6
Education......................	136.3	4/122.2	136.6	121.7	+14.1	-0.3
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	0.8	5.1	0.0	0.0	-4.3	+0.8

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date Nov. 23, 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Benchmark 1982

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	October 1983 Preliminary 3/				September 1983 Revised				October 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,049,400	1,854,600	194,800	9.5	2,055,700	1,867,700	188,000	9.1	2,024,300	1,784,300	240,000	11.9
Bellingham SMSA	50,500	45,100	5,500	10.9	50,300	45,700	4,600	9.1	49,600	43,600	6,000	12.1
Bremerton SMSA	65,100	60,400	4,700	7.2	65,700	61,100	4,600	7.0	61,700	55,900	5,800	9.4
Olympia SMSA	56,700	50,700	6,000	10.6	57,300	51,300	6,000	10.5	55,300	48,400	6,900	12.5
Seattle-Everett SMSA	900,300	823,100	77,700	8.6	895,100	818,000	77,100	8.6	886,200	791,300	94,900	10.7
Spokane SMSA	156,000	143,400	12,600	8.1	156,700	144,300	12,400	7.9	152,900	134,900	18,000	11.8
Tacoma SMSA	189,300	167,500	21,800	11.5	194,600	173,200	21,400	11.0	186,300	162,000	24,300	13.0
Tri-Cities Area 2/	77,000	67,400	9,600	12.5	78,000	68,900	9,100	11.7	79,000	67,500	11,500	14.6
Yakima SMSA	92,900	82,900	10,000	10.8	92,400	83,400	9,000	9.7	90,900	79,600	11,300	12.4
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,630	35,080	3,550	9.2	37,820	34,460	3,360	8.9	38,640	34,270	4,370	11.3
Adams	7,790	7,070	720	9.2	8,300	7,540	760	9.2	6,900	6,320	580	8.4
Asotin	8,300	7,600	700	8.4	8,330	7,660	670	8.0	8,130	7,070	1,060	13.0
Clallam	19,900	17,410	2,490	12.5	20,150	18,030	2,120	10.5	20,070	16,180	3,890	19.4
Clark	92,830	85,200	7,630	8.2	92,820	85,540	7,280	7.8	93,500	83,410	10,090	10.8
Columbia	2,370	2,070	300	12.7	2,530	2,300	230	9.1	2,300	1,910	390	17.0
Cowlitz	33,270	29,070	4,200	12.6	33,190	29,350	3,840	11.6	33,490	27,180	6,310	18.8
Ferry	2,500	2,200	300	12.0	2,460	2,190	270	11.0	2,390	1,890	500	20.9
Garfield	1,160	1,080	80	6.9	1,200	1,140	60	5.0	1,080	1,010	70	6.5
Grant	24,320	21,740	2,580	10.6	25,780	23,280	2,500	9.7	22,450	19,610	2,840	12.7
Grays Harbor	28,240	24,540	3,700	13.1	28,400	24,760	3,640	12.8	33,650	28,360	5,290	15.7
Island	15,020	13,690	1,330	8.9	15,160	13,890	1,270	8.4	14,610	13,100	1,510	10.3
Jefferson	6,610	6,020	590	8.9	6,760	6,240	520	7.7	6,550	5,750	800	12.2
Kittitas	10,750	9,760	990	9.2	10,420	9,380	1,040	10.0	10,380	9,270	1,110	10.7
Klickitat	6,930	6,190	740	10.7	7,070	6,370	700	9.9	6,840	5,770	1,070	15.6
Lewis	24,080	21,110	2,970	12.3	24,460	21,680	2,780	11.4	24,470	20,760	3,710	15.2
Lincoln	4,060	3,880	180	4.4	4,370	4,190	180	4.1	3,840	3,630	210	5.5
Mason	10,840	9,620	1,220	11.3	10,760	9,680	1,080	10.0	11,030	9,270	1,760	16.0
Okanogan	18,340	16,130	2,210	12.1	18,740	16,680	2,060	11.0	20,130	17,070	3,060	15.2
Pacific	7,360	6,270	1,090	14.8	7,560	6,550	1,010	13.4	7,200	5,980	1,220	16.9
Pend Oreille	3,080	2,590	490	15.9	3,170	2,660	510	16.1	3,230	2,440	790	24.5
San Juan	3,750	3,500	250	6.7	4,170	3,940	230	5.5	3,180	2,910	270	8.5
Skagit	33,190	29,370	3,820	11.5	33,490	30,100	3,390	10.1	31,650	26,780	4,870	15.4
Skamania	2,880	2,470	410	14.2	2,780	2,390	390	14.0	3,110	2,520	590	19.0
Stevens	11,170	9,720	1,450	13.0	11,620	10,180	1,440	12.4	11,620	9,610	2,010	17.3
Wahkiakum	1,170	1,080	90	7.7	1,160	1,060	100	8.6	1,410	1,220	190	13.5
Walla Walla	25,690	23,480	2,210	8.6	26,480	24,660	1,820	6.9	25,050	22,750	2,300	9.2
Whitman	16,420	15,920	500	3.0	16,380	15,860	520	3.2	15,540	14,910	630	4.1

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

November 23, 1983
Benchmark 1982

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 1983 Preliminary 3/				September 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,067,600	1,866,000	201,600	9.8	2,059,200	1,864,500	194,700	9.5
Bellingham SMSA	51,100	45,400	5,700	11.2	50,500	45,700	4,800	9.5
Bremerton SMSA	65,700	60,800	4,900	7.5	65,700	61,000	4,700	7.2
Olympia SMSA	57,300	51,000	6,300	11.0	57,400	51,200	6,200	10.8
King County	716,100	654,500	61,600	8.6	706,900	645,400	61,500	8.7
Snohomish County	192,500	173,700	18,800	9.8	189,600	171,200	18,400	9.7
Spokane SMSA	157,400	144,300	13,100	8.3	156,900	144,000	12,900	8.2
Tacoma SMSA	191,100	168,500	22,600	11.8	195,100	172,900	22,200	11.4
Tri-Cities Area 2/	77,800	67,900	9,900	12.7	78,200	68,800	9,400	12.0
Yakima SMSA	93,900	83,500	10,400	11.1	92,600	83,200	9,400	10.2
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,970	35,300	3,670	9.4	37,880	34,400	3,480	9.2
Adams	7,870	7,120	750	9.5	8,320	7,530	790	9.5
Asotin	8,370	7,650	720	8.6	8,330	7,640	690	8.3
Clallam	20,100	17,520	2,580	12.8	20,200	18,000	2,200	10.9
Clark	93,620	85,720	7,900	8.4	92,940	85,400	7,540	8.1
Columbia	2,400	2,090	310	12.9	2,540	2,300	240	9.4
Cowlitz	33,590	29,250	4,340	12.9	33,280	29,300	3,980	12.0
Ferry	2,530	2,220	310	12.3	2,470	2,190	280	11.3
Garfield	1,170	1,090	80	6.8	1,210	1,140	70	5.8
Grant	24,540	21,870	2,670	10.9	25,830	23,240	2,590	10.0
Grays Harbor	28,520	24,690	3,830	13.4	28,490	24,720	3,770	13.2
Island	15,160	13,780	1,380	9.1	15,180	13,870	1,310	8.6
Jefferson	6,670	6,060	610	9.1	6,770	6,230	540	8.0
Kittitas	10,840	9,820	1,020	9.4	10,450	9,370	1,080	10.3
Klickitat	7,000	6,230	770	11.0	7,090	6,360	730	10.3
Lewis	24,310	21,240	3,070	12.6	24,520	21,640	2,880	11.7
Lincoln	4,080	3,900	180	4.4	4,360	4,180	180	4.1
Mason	10,950	9,680	1,270	11.6	10,790	9,670	1,120	10.4
Okanogan	18,520	16,230	2,290	12.4	18,780	16,650	2,130	11.3
Pacific	7,440	6,310	1,130	15.2	7,580	6,540	1,040	13.7
Pend Oreille	3,120	2,610	510	16.3	3,180	2,650	530	16.7
San Juan	3,780	3,520	260	6.9	4,180	3,940	240	5.7
Skagit	33,500	29,550	3,950	11.8	33,570	30,050	3,520	10.5
Skamania	2,910	2,490	420	14.4	2,780	2,380	400	14.4
Stevens	11,280	9,780	1,500	13.3	11,650	10,160	1,490	12.8
Wahkiakum	1,190	1,090	100	8.4	1,160	1,060	100	8.6
Walla Walla	25,910	23,620	2,290	8.8	26,500	24,620	1,880	7.1
Whitman	16,540	16,020	520	3.1	16,370	15,830	540	3.3

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

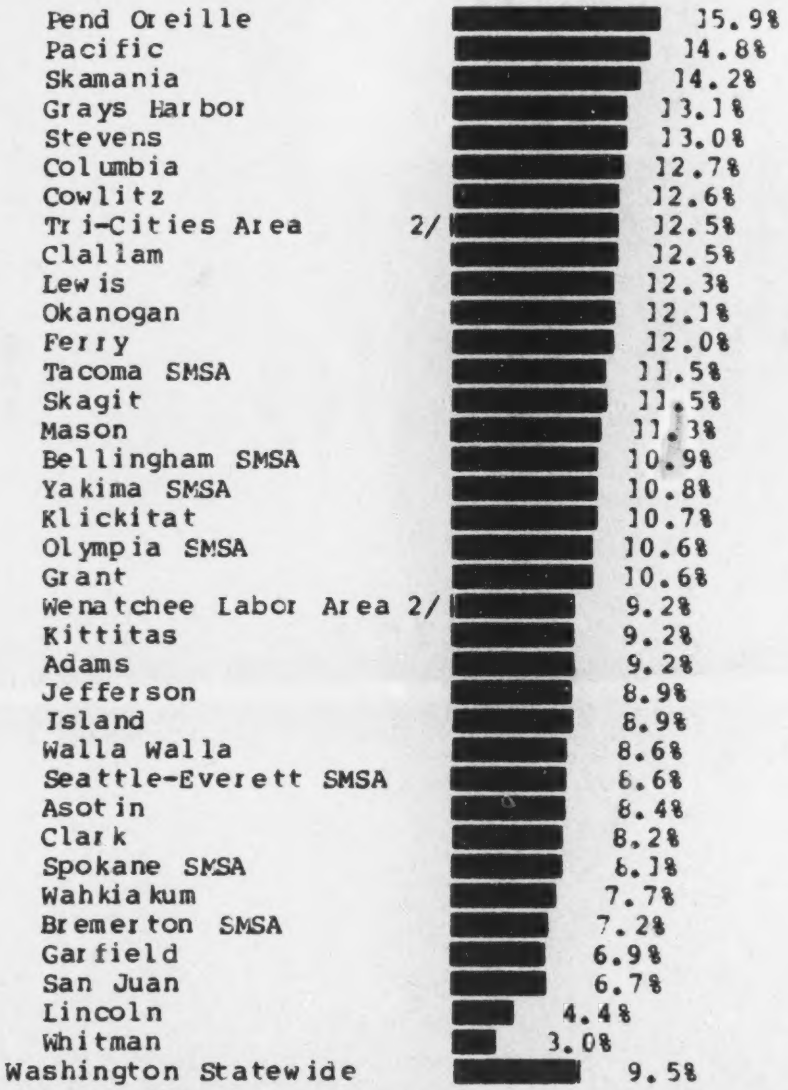
3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Sep. 1983 Prod. or	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	Nonsup. Workers	Sep. 1983	Aug. 1983	Sep. 1982	Sep. 1983	Aug. 1983	Sep. 1982	Sep. 1983	Aug. 1983	Sep. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES...............	179,700	$445.38	$443.12	$435.60	39.0	38.7	38.8	$11.42	$11.45	$11.33
Lumber and wood products..................	40,000	440.83	440.80	429.25	38.4	38.0	37.1	11.48	11.60	11.57
Primary metal industries..................	10,800	553.85	558.88	554.69	41.8	42.5	41.8	13.25	13.15	13.27
Fabricated metal products.................	7,200	488.82	500.12	517.75	40.1	40.3	42.3	12.19	12.41	12.24
Machinery 1/..............................	15,800	389.27	373.63	352.97	39.6	38.4	38.2	9.83	9.73	9.24
Transportation equipment..................	29,500	510.61	512.07	538.33	38.8	39.0	41.0	13.16	13.13	13.13
Food and kindred products.................	26,900	355.36	354.56	347.40	38.5	37.8	38.6	9.23	9.38	9.00
Chemicals and allied products.............	5,000	562.40	506.32	487.21	45.1	41.4	41.5	12.47	12.23	11.74
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction..............................	59,800	655.13	657.11	637.35	37.5	37.7	35.0	17.47	17.43	18.21
Wholesale and retail trade................	246,300	318.56	325.03	314.53	35.2	35.6	34.3	9.05	9.13	9.17

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/
October, 1983 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



1/ Figures rounded. 2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
Research and Analysis Branch

1/31/84 S8340-3 A

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 12 December 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment in Washington State rose from a revised 194,100 and 9.4 percent of the labor force in October to 203,700 and 10.0 percent in November. The size of the increase was normal for this time of the year and resulted from seasonal layoffs in agriculture, food processing, and outdoor activities such as construction and logging. While over-the-month changes mirrored seasonal developments, an over-the-year comparison of labor force data pointed to substantial improvement in the state's economy. Compared with November 1982, the number of jobless workers in the state has declined 49,400, while the unemployment rate has been trimmed from 12.6 to 10.0 percent.

	Nov. 1983*	Oct. 1983*	Nov. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,035,900	2,058,100	2,006,300
Employment	1,832,200	1,864,000	1,753,200
Unemployment	203,700	194,100	253,100
State Rate	10.0	9.4	12.6
National Civilian Rate	8.1	8.4	10.4

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

Total employment fell 31,800 from October to November, with most of the loss in agriculture where the apple harvest was completed. Nonfarm employment also declined, but losses were partially offset by seasonal gains in retail trade and in public education. As a result, the drop in nonfarm payroll employment was limited to 7,800 between October and November. Employment in retail trade rose in November with the hiring of hundreds of temporary workers to help serve holiday shoppers. Public education payrolls moved up as schools and colleges continued to round out their staffs for the new school year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Unemployment rose in nearly all areas of the state in November. Counties highly dependent on agriculture and/or the lumber industry experienced the largest increases in their jobless rates as might be expected. Mason County was an exception because of temporary jobs associated with its Christmas tree harvest. Unemployment in Mason County fell from 11.1 percent in October to 10.1 percent in November. By contrast, unemployment in adjoining Grays Harbor County rose from 12.7 to 14.5 percent over the month, while the rate in Pacific County increased from 14.8 to 17.2 percent. Lumber employment in both Grays Harbor and Pacific counties declined seasonally in November.

In a number of the eastern Washington agricultural counties, unemployment rose sharply following the completion of the apple harvest and a seasonal decline in vegetable processing, canning and shipping. In Yakima County, the jobless rate jumped from 10.7 to 14.1 percent. Despite the rise, however, the unemployment rate in Yakima County was substantially lower than the 16.1 percent recorded in November 1982. Elsewhere in eastern Washington, the jobless rate in the Wenatchee area (Chelan and Douglas counties) rose from 9.0 to 11.1 percent over the month, while the rate in Okanogan County increased from 12.2 to 16.1 percent. The Wenatchee area and Okanogan County are major apple producing areas. Lumber production is also important in both areas.

Unemployment increased more moderately in the Puget Sound area where the economy is more diversified. In the Seattle-Everett Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate rose only one-tenth of a point as seasonal job losses were largely offset by the hiring of holiday workers at retail stores and seasonal gains in education. In the adjoining Tacoma Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate fell from 11.2 to 11.1 percent with holiday hiring by retail stores and growth in public education augmented by an expansion in transportation equipment.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment fell 5,000 between October and November largely because of seasonal cutbacks in lumber and food processing. The most noteworthy recent development in manufacturing, however, was the announcement by The Boeing Company that they expect to add 3,000 employees in 1984. As if to signal the turning point in the volatile industry, aerospace employment rose 300 in November. The increase was the first addition in the industry since mid-1981. Between January 1981 and October 1983, employment in aerospace fell from 81,500 to 61,500, a loss of 20,000. In announcing the turnaround, Boeing cited new military and commercial business. The largest recent sale was an $800 million order from Northwest Airlines for 20 Boeing 757 jetliners.

Elsewhere in manufacturing, other transportation equipment rose 400 with over one-half of the gain in shipbuilding. Aluminum payrolls moved up 300 with employment returning to its prestrike level. In the loss column, food products employment fell 3,500 with most seasonal fruit and vegetable processing activity completed for the year. Employment in the beverage portion of the industry also retreated from summer levels. Lumber payrolls fell 1,700 in November with over one-half of the loss in logging. Seasonal demand for logs and lumber was down, and snow at higher elevations closed some logging operations until spring. Other losses in the October-November period included reductions of 300 each in fabricated metals and pulp-paper and a drop of 200 in stone, clay, and glass products. The losses in fabricated metals and stone-clay-glass were largely seasonal and mainly resulted from less demand from the construction industry. Employment in pulp and paper manufacturing has increased since spring, but temporary layoffs continue to occur in the industry.

Manufacturing employment dropped 7,000 over the year in Washington State. Substantial recovery from depressed year-ago levels has occurred in a number of the state's goods-producing industries, but gains were offset by a loss of 12,400 in transportation equipment. Aerospace alone accounted for 9,600 of the reduction, while other transportation equipment payrolls fell 2,800 year to year. Fortunately, aerospace will be a positive factor in 1984. Employment in other transportation equipment should also continue to expand now that the labor dispute has been settled.

Manufacturing industries reporting year-to-year gains included lumber-wood products which rose 1,900 with demand increasing from the homebuilding industry. Aluminum added 1,000 on the strength of increased demand for the metal from automobile manufacturers and manufacturers of products used in homebuilding, i.e., window frames, insulation backing, etc. Three industries were credited with the payroll increases of 900 each: other durable goods (mainly instruments), printing-publishing, and chemicals.

Seasonal factors in the nonmanufacturing industries were also negative in November. Exceptions were retail trade, where stores continued to add temporary holiday workers, and public education, where schools continued to round out their staffs for the new school year. Retail outlets added 2,600 workers in November. Nationally, retailers recorded their highest holiday sales volume in 10 years despite record cold weather in the week preceding Christmas. Building material stores and restaurants cut back in November following traditional seasonal patterns in the state and 800 meat cutters remained on strike in November, but holiday sales were brisk with economic conditions positive for the first time since 1979. Employment in public education rose 3,600 in November, but the total gain in government was trimmed to 2,100 because of cutbacks in summer jobs at parks, forests and in outdoor maintenance.

Reporting declining employment, construction payrolls fell 4,200 as activity wound down to winter levels. Employment in wholesale trade dropped 1,400 in November. Approximately 1,200 of the loss occurred at fruit and vegetable warehouses where apple storage activities slowed following the completion of the harvest in October. A loss of 1,400 was also reported in the services group. Agricultural services were lower, while hotels and motels reduced staffing because of less tourist business. Amusement and recreation employment was down as summer - fall activities were ending. The skiing season will boost amusement employment in December, however. Transportation and public utilities payrolls fell 500 in November. About 300 of the drop resulted from a labor dispute which was settled in late December. Air transportation payrolls increased, probably because of pre-holiday (Thanksgiving) travel, but trucking and warehousing employment dipped seasonally.

Employment in the nonmanufacturing industries rose 36,700 over the year with the largest increases in retail trade (up 11,300) and services (up 12,000). Smaller expansions were credited to government (up 7,000), finance-insurance-real estate (up 3,500), and wholesale trade (up 3,300).

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Fueled by a fourth quarter resurgence in consumer spending, the nation's economy continued to grow in November. Several signs, however, pointed to a somewhat slower rate of expansion. Preliminary estimates of fourth quarter Gross National Product indicate an annual growth rate of 4.6 percent, down from 7.6 percent in the third and 9.7 percent in the second quarter of 1983. The Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators, which declined during November for the first time in more than a year, also pointed to decelerated growth in the months ahead.

Nationally, the jobless rate continued its downward trend from an October level of 8.4 percent, to 8.1 percent in November. (These figures are not seasonally adjusted.) On the national level, seasonal layoffs in agriculture and other weather sensitive industries were more than offset by notable gains in most areas of durable goods manufacturing.

Although employment in Washington State benefited from the heavier demand for durables, the emphasis on agriculture, construction, logging, and food processing in the state's economy, makes Washington more vulnerable to recurrent fall and winter declines in employment. The consumer led recovery on the national level has yet to have a full and equal impact on employment in Washington State manufacturing, which is heavily concentrated in capital goods production (especially aircraft, and lumber for building construction). As capital spending increases through 1984, however, improvements in state labor market conditions are expected to parallel the national recovery more closely.

Although most economists predict continued national growth through 1984, chronic imbalances in foreign trade, large projected Federal budget deficits, and concerns about upward pressures on interest rates, have dampened expectations of unabated national economic growth in the year ahead. The pace of Washington State's recovery is closely tied to developments in these areas: Demand for products from state capital goods industries is exceptionally sensitive to fluctuations in national interest rates. Further state progress in international trade is negatively affected by the strength of the American dollar abroad. Stability in the state's defense related industries depends on how the President and Congress deal with Federal budget deficits.

Signs of moderation in national economic growth and heightened sensitivity to national trade deficits during the past quarter, however, should ease pressures on the Federal Reserve to pursue anti-inflationary (high interest rate) policies in 1984. These developments, along with increased capital spending and anticipated stability in defense expenditures, point to continued economic recovery for Washington State in succeeding months.

A return in 1984 to pre-recessionary rates of unemployment in the state or nation, however, is not considered realistic. A recent Federal Commerce Department survey predicted that 87 percent of U.S. manufacturers will increase shipments in 1984, but that only 31 percent will approach pre-recession peaks. The pre-recession unemployment rate for the state was about 7 percent. The comparable national figure was in the 6 percent vicinity.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					Change	
	Nov. 1983 (Prel.)	Oct. 1983 (Rev.)	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982	Oct. 83 to Nov. 83	Nov. 82 to Nov. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,598.3	1,606.1	1,568.6	1,574.4	-7.6	+29.7
TOTAL MANUFACTURING...............	276.7	281.7	283.7	290.1	-5.0	-7.0
Durable Goods.....................	190.9	192.2	199.0	200.6	-1.3	-8.1
Lumber & Wood Products..........	40.6	42.3	38.7	39.6	-1.7	+1.9
Furniture & Fixtures............	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.0	0.0	+0.4
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod.......	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.8	-0.2	+0.4
Primary Metal Industries........	13.5	13.3	12.6	12.8	+0.2	+0.9
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	9.1	8.8	8.1	8.1	+0.3	+1.0
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.5	9.8	9.6	9.7	-0.3	-0.1
Machinery.......................	26.7	26.7	26.8	26.9	0.0	-0.1
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	16.2	16.2	16.3	16.5	0.0	-0.1
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.4	0.0	0.0
Transportation Equipment.......	77.2	76.5	89.6	90.0	+0.7	-12.4
Aerospace.....................	61.8	61.5	71.4	72.0	+0.3	-9.6
Other Transp. Equipment.......	15.4	15.0	18.2	18.0	+0.4	-2.8
Other Durable Goods 2/.........	13.9	13.9	13.0	12.8	0.0	+0.9
Nondurable Goods.................	85.8	89.5	84.7	89.5	-3.7	+1.1
Food & Kindred Products........	30.2	33.7	31.3	35.6	-3.5	-1.1
Canned & Preserved Foods......	10.6	13.7	11.7	15.8	-3.1	-1.1
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.9	0.0	+0.3
Paper & Allied Products........	15.9	16.2	16.0	16.1	-0.3	-0.1
Printing & Publishing..........	16.5	16.4	15.6	15.8	+0.1	+0.9
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.4	10.3	9.5	9.5	+0.1	+0.9
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.6	-0.1	+0.2
MINING & QUARRYING...............	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.0	0.0	-0.3
CONSTRUCTION.....................	74.0	78.2	73.8	76.1	-4.2	+0.2
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	4/89.6	90.1	89.9	90.4	-0.5	-0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	4/400.5	4/399.3	385.9	384.4	+1.2	+14.6
Wholesale Trade.................	100.3	101.7	97.0	98.5	-1.4	+3.3
Retail Trade....................	4/300.2	4/297.6	288.9	285.9	+2.6	+11.3
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	93.3	93.3	89.8	90.2	0.0	+3.5
SERVICES.........................	329.2	330.6	317.2	319.4	-1.4	+12.0
GOVERNMENT.......................	332.2	330.1	325.2	320.8	+2.1	+7.0
Federal.........................	67.2	67.7	66.6	66.2	-0.5	+0.6
State & Local...................	265.0	262.4	258.6	254.6	+2.6	+6.4
Education.....................	146.5	142.9	140.9	136.6	+3.6	+5.6
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	+0.3	+1.1

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date Dec. 29, 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Benchmark 1982

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	November 1983 Preliminary 3/				October 1983 Revised				November 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,035,900	1,832,200	203,700	10.0	2,058,100	1,864,000	194,100	9.4	2,006,300	1,753,200	253,100	12.6
Bellingham SMSA	50,600	45,100	5,500	10.9	51,500	46,000	5,500	10.7	49,200	42,700	6,500	13.2
Bremerton SMSA	65,700	60,800	4,900	7.5	65,200	60,500	4,700	7.2	62,200	56,700	5,500	8.8
Olympia SMSA	57,100	50,800	6,300	11.0	56,200	50,200	6,000	10.7	55,300	48,100	7,200	12.9
Seattle-Everett SMSA	904,000	826,200	77,800	8.6	903,300	826,100	77,200	8.5	890,100	793,400	96,700	10.9
Spokane SMSA	155,300	141,900	13,400	8.6	155,300	142,700	12,600	8.1	152,600	134,100	18,500	12.1
Tacoma SMSA	193,100	171,600	21,500	11.1	192,100	170,500	21,600	11.2	186,400	161,600	24,800	13.3
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,300	64,100	10,200	13.7	76,600	67,100	9,500	12.4	77,800	65,600	12,200	15.7
Yakima SMSA	80,700	69,300	11,400	14.1	93,400	83,400	10,000	10.7	79,300	66,500	12,800	16.1
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,080	32,960	4,120	11.1	39,530	35,990	3,540	9.0	36,120	30,760	5,360	14.8
Adams	7,220	6,290	930	12.9	7,650	6,940	710	9.3	6,570	5,500	1,070	16.3
Asotin	8,100	7,370	730	9.0	8,230	7,520	710	8.6	8,150	7,010	1,140	14.0
Clallam	19,960	16,740	3,220	16.1	19,840	17,330	2,510	12.7	19,590	15,790	3,800	19.4
Clark	93,160	85,170	7,990	8.6	92,870	85,100	7,770	8.4	94,540	83,240	11,300	12.0
Columbia	2,140	1,780	360	16.8	2,350	2,060	290	12.3	2,140	1,700	440	20.6
Cowlitz	33,740	29,050	4,690	13.9	33,910	29,700	4,210	12.4	33,340	26,490	6,850	20.5
Ferry	2,510	2,180	330	13.1	2,490	2,190	300	12.0	2,340	1,830	510	21.8
Garfield	1,070	980	90	8.4	1,140	1,070	70	6.1	1,030	940	90	8.7
Grant	23,400	20,330	3,070	13.1	24,300	21,740	2,560	10.5	21,820	18,300	3,520	16.1
Grays Harbor	28,770	24,600	4,170	14.5	29,660	25,880	3,780	12.7	33,490	27,750	5,740	17.1
Island	15,090	13,760	1,330	8.8	15,130	13,830	1,300	8.6	14,420	12,960	1,460	10.1
Jefferson	6,440	5,830	610	9.5	6,570	5,990	580	8.8	6,380	5,570	810	12.7
Kittitas	11,000	9,840	1,160	10.5	11,310	10,310	1,000	8.8	10,420	9,140	1,280	12.3
Klickitat	6,950	5,920	1,030	14.8	6,950	6,200	750	10.8	7,060	5,530	1,530	21.7
Lewis	24,320	20,870	3,450	14.2	24,380	21,430	2,950	12.1	24,670	20,120	4,550	18.4
Lincoln	3,770	3,570	200	5.3	4,040	3,860	180	4.5	3,710	3,440	270	7.3
Mason	11,200	10,070	1,130	10.1	10,980	9,760	1,220	11.1	10,710	9,090	1,620	15.1
Okanogan	16,140	13,540	2,600	16.1	18,320	16,090	2,230	12.2	15,130	12,060	3,070	20.3
Pacific	7,040	5,830	1,210	17.2	7,240	6,170	1,070	14.8	7,160	5,770	1,390	19.4
Pend Oreille	3,020	2,480	540	17.9	2,970	2,500	470	15.8	3,190	2,320	870	27.3
San Juan	3,720	3,450	270	7.3	3,850	3,600	250	6.5	3,010	2,700	310	10.3
Skagit	33,170	28,770	4,400	13.3	33,380	29,570	3,810	11.4	31,330	26,030	5,300	16.9
Skamania	2,870	2,380	490	17.1	3,040	2,630	410	13.5	3,160	2,430	730	23.1
Stevens	10,390	8,820	1,570	15.2	11,130	9,680	1,450	13.0	11,660	9,350	2,310	19.8
Wahkiakum	1,240	1,130	110	8.9	1,320	1,220	100	7.6	1,380	1,240	140	10.1
Walla Walla	25,440	22,960	2,480	9.7	25,590	23,380	2,210	8.6	24,830	22,160	2,670	10.8
Whitman	15,820	15,310	510	3.2	16,360	15,850	510	3.1	15,190	14,460	730	4.8

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

December 29, 1983
Benchmark 1982

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 1983 Preliminary 3/				October 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,072,000	1,859,600	212,400	10.3	2,075,600	1,874,600	201,000	9.7
Bellingham SMSA	51,400	45,700	5,700	11.1	51,900	46,200	5,700	11.0
Bremerton SMSA	66,800	61,700	5,100	7.6	65,600	60,800	4,800	7.3
Olympia SMSA	58,100	51,600	6,500	11.2	56,700	50,500	6,200	10.9
King County	724,300	662,600	61,700	8.5	718,200	656,500	61,700	8.6
Snohomish County	195,300	175,900	19,400	9.9	192,400	174,200	18,200	9.5
Spokane SMSA	158,000	144,000	14,000	8.9	156,500	143,500	13,000	8.3
Tacoma SMSA	196,600	174,200	22,400	11.4	193,800	171,400	22,400	11.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,600	65,000	10,600	14.0	77,400	67,500	9,900	12.8
Yakima SMSA	82,200	70,300	11,900	14.5	94,300	83,900	10,400	11.0
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,740	33,450	4,290	11.4	39,870	36,200	3,670	9.2
Adams	7,350	6,380	970	13.2	7,720	6,980	740	9.6
Asotin	8,240	7,480	760	9.2	8,300	7,560	740	8.9
Clallam	20,350	16,990	3,360	16.5	20,020	17,430	2,590	12.9
Clark	94,770	86,440	8,330	8.8	93,620	85,580	8,040	8.6
Columbia	2,170	1,800	370	17.1	2,380	2,080	300	12.6
Cowlitz	34,380	29,490	4,890	14.2	34,230	29,870	4,360	12.7
Ferry	2,560	2,220	340	13.3	2,520	2,210	310	12.3
Garfield	1,080	990	90	8.3	1,150	1,080	70	6.1
Grant	23,830	20,630	3,200	13.4	24,520	21,870	2,650	10.8
Grays Harbor	29,320	24,970	4,350	14.8	29,940	26,030	3,910	13.1
Island	15,340	13,960	1,380	9.0	15,260	13,910	1,350	8.8
Jefferson	6,560	5,920	640	9.8	6,630	6,030	600	9.0
Kittitas	11,200	9,990	1,210	10.8	11,400	10,360	1,040	9.1
Klickitat	7,090	6,010	1,080	15.2	7,020	6,240	780	11.1
Lewis	24,780	21,180	3,600	14.5	24,620	21,560	3,060	12.4
Lincoln	3,830	3,620	210	5.5	4,060	3,880	180	4.4
Mason	11,400	10,220	1,180	10.4	11,090	9,820	1,270	11.5
Okanogan	16,450	13,740	2,710	16.5	18,490	16,180	2,310	12.5
Pacific	7,180	5,920	1,260	17.5	7,320	6,210	1,110	15.2
Pend Oreille	3,090	2,520	570	18.4	3,010	2,520	490	16.3
San Juan	3,780	3,500	280	7.4	3,880	3,620	260	6.7
Skagit	33,790	29,200	4,590	13.6	33,680	29,740	3,940	11.7
Skamania	2,920	2,410	510	17.5	3,070	2,650	420	13.7
Stevens	11,200	9,460	1,740	15.5	11,230	9,730	1,500	13.4
Wahkiakum	1,260	1,150	110	8.7	1,340	1,230	110	8.2
Walla Walla	25,890	23,300	2,590	10.0	25,800	23,510	2,290	8.9
Whitman	16,070	15,540	530	3.3	16,460	15,940	520	3.2

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

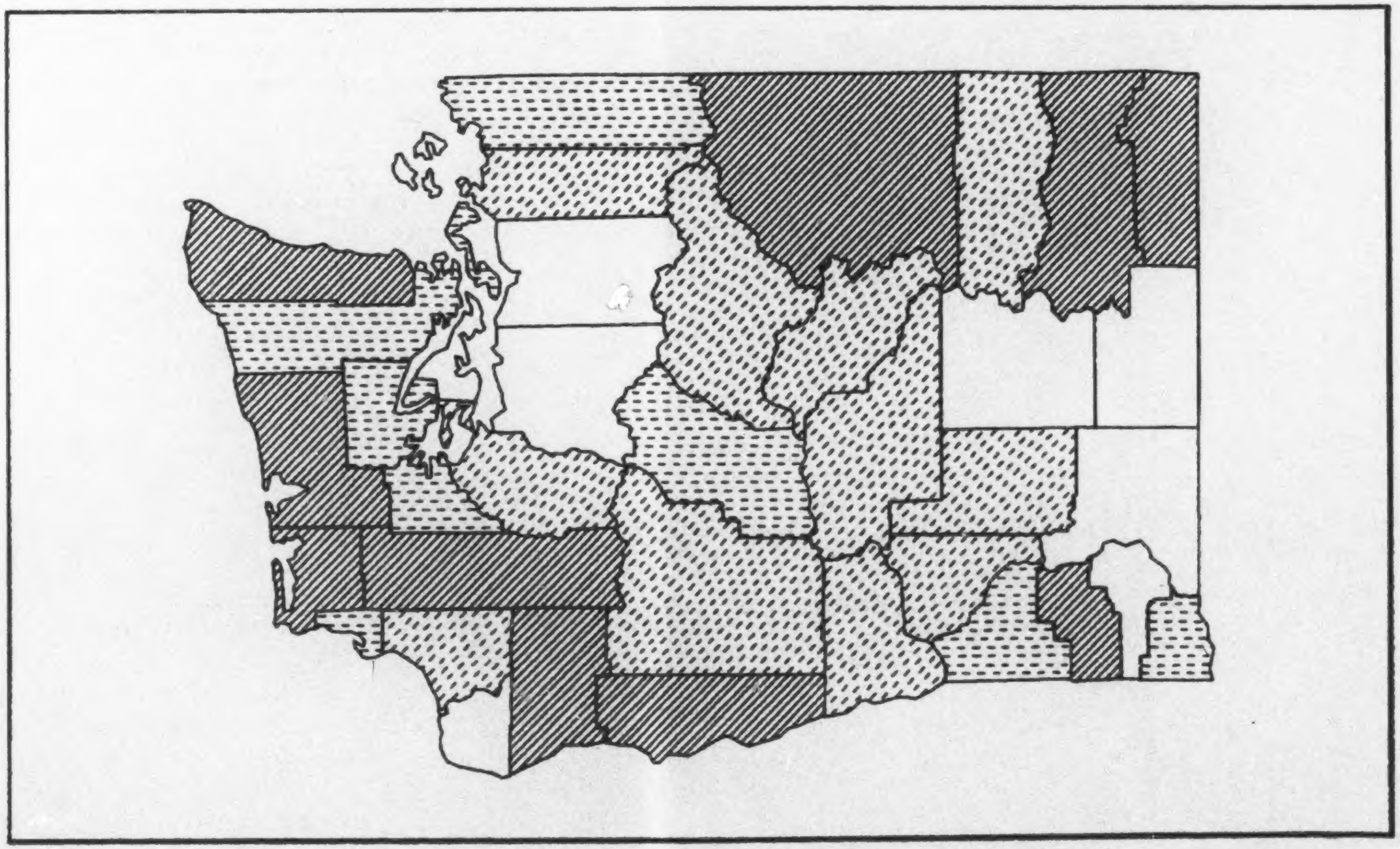
ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Oct. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly earnings		
		Oct. 1983	Sep. 1983	Oct. 1982	Oct. 1983	Sep. 1983	Oct. 1982	Oct. 1983	Sep. 1983	Oct. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES................	180,200	$455.86	$445.38	$436.95	39.4	39.0	38.6	$11.57	$11.42	$11.32
Lumber and wood products.................	39,000	447.27	440.83	415.69	39.2	38.4	36.4	11.41	11.48	11.42
Primary metal industries.................	10,500	551.60	553.85	542.93	40.9	41.8	41.7	13.56	13.25	13.02
Fabricated metal products................	7,200	465.31	485.60	484.79	39.3	40.0	39.9	11.84	12.14	12.15
Machinery 1/.............................	15,700	384.12	389.27	364.21	39.6	39.6	38.5	9.70	9.83	9.46
Transportation equipment.................	32,100	559.54	510.61	553.91	40.4	38.8	41.0	13.85	13.16	13.51
Food and kindred products................	26,000	351.37	355.36	337.93	37.9	38.5	37.8	9.35	9.23	8.91
Chemicals and allied products............	4,900	523.74	562.40	495.85	42.0	45.1	42.2	12.47	12.47	11.75
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction.............................	59,000	643.22	655.13	659.17	37.6	37.5	36.6	17.24	17.47	18.01
Wholesale and retail trade...............	248,900	325.61	318.56	315.98	35.9	35.2	34.8	9.07	9.05	9.03

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.

NOVEMBER 1983
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES

▨ OVER 14.1
▒ 11.1 - 14.0
░ 8.8 - 11.0
☐ UNDER 8.8



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JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 1 January 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

Total unemployment in Washington State edged up to 209,700 and 10.3 percent of the labor force in December from a revised 205,200 and 10.1 percent in November. The rise in unemployment over the month of 4,500 and two-tenths of a percentage point was considerably less than usual for this time of year. Between 1970 and 1982, the increase in unemployment between November and December averaged 10,750 and six-tenths of a point. Total employment fell 12,000 over the month with 3,100 of the drop in nonfarm employment. Losses resulted from normal seasonal cutbacks in agriculture, canning, logging and construction.

Contrasted with developments between November and December, the year-to-year comparison of labor force data continued to reflect substantial improvement in the economy. Total employment added 79,000 between December 1982 and December 1983, while unemployment fell 51,300. The jobless rate in December 1982 totaled 13.0 percent, or 2.7 points higher

	Dec. 1983*	Nov. 1983*	Dec. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,031,400	2,038,900	2,003,700
Employment	1,821,700	1,833,700	1,742,700
Unemployment	209,700	205,200	261,000
State Rate	10.3	10.1	13.0
National Civilian Rate	8.0	8.1	10.5

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

than that recorded this December. Nationally, the civilian unemployment rate was 8.0 percent in December, down from 8.1 percent in November and 10.5 percent in December 1982 (data are not seasonally adjusted).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

The increase in unemployment over the month was concentrated in counties where the agriculture, food processing and/or lumber industries are major sources of jobs. In larger, more diversified counties, there was little change in unemployment. In a few counties, unemployment actually fell slightly over the month.

The unemployment rate in the Seattle-Everett Metropolitan Area dipped from 8.6 to 8.5 percent. Employment in the area remained relatively stable with the hiring of temporary holiday workers in retail trade offsetting losses in construction and other seasonal industries. Employment in the Tacoma Metropolitan Area also remained stable over the month, and the area's jobless rate was 11.1 percent in both November and December. In the nearby Bremerton Metropolitan Area, which has one of the lowest jobless rates in the state, the unemployment rate slipped from 7.5 to 7.4 percent over the month. Employment in the area rose slightly, while unemployment edged downward. The area's economy has smaller seasonal fluctuations than most other parts of the state because of the stability of Federal jobs at local defense installations. Defense establishments provide the largest single source of jobs in Kitsap County.

In other metropolitan areas, the jobless rate in the Olympia area moved from 11.2 to 11.3 percent, while the rate in the Richland-Kennewick area also rose slightly, from 13.9 to 14.0 percent. Matching the statewide increase, the rate in the Spokane Metropolitan Area edged up two-tenths of a point and stood at 8.9 percent in December. In contrast to the minor changes in most other metropolitan areas, the jobless rate in the Yakima area jumped from 14.3 percent in November to 16.1 percent in December. Farm employment in Yakima and employment at its food processing plants and fruit-vegetable warehouses dropped sharply in December.

Unemployment in many of the state's smaller counties also rose substantially in December. Mason County saw its rate jump from 10.1 percent in November to 13.6 percent in December. Major factors behind the larger increase were the windup of the Christmas tree harvest and a substantial layoff in the lumber industry. Lumber employment also dropped seasonally in Grays Harbor County, and the area's unemployment rate jumped from 14.4 to 15.3 percent over the month. East of the Cascades a normal seasonal drop in farmwork and related processing and shipping activity boosted unemployment in most counties. The jobless rate in Walla Walla County rose from 9.9 to 11.4 percent, while the rate in Okanogan County jumped from 15.3 to 17.7 percent.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Seasonal cutbacks continued to reduce employment in manufacturing during December. The job total in the basic industries fell 3,200 over the month. Food processing plants laid off an additional 2,000 workers with freezing and other preserving operations being reduced to winter levels. Little change will now occur in food processing employment until May when a new season will begin with the asparagus run. Employment in the lumber industry dropped 1,000, but most of the loss occurred in logging where increasing snow levels at higher elevations forced shutdowns.

Little change usually occurs in aerospace employment in December because of the long holiday shutdown. Employment edged up 100 from November, however. Sales by The Boeing Company posted a healthy rise in 1983. This increase will be reflected in the hiring of an additional 3,000 workers in the state in 1984 according to Boeing. Orders for 151 jet aircraft were received in 1983 compared with orders for 110 jet aircraft 1982. Military business also increased in 1983 for the fourth consecutive year. Boeing sales to the U.S. Government in 1983 totaled $3.51 billion, up $304 million from 1982.

Over the year, total manufacturing employment dropped 6,300 as losses in aerospace and other transportation equipment more than offset growth in other industires. Aerospace employment alone fell 9,200, while other transportation equipment dropped 3,100. Lower shipbuilding payrolls accounted for most of the loss in the latter. There was a labor dispute at three shipyards from May through September. Unfortunately, employment in the industry has yet to regain its pre-strike level.

Although the overall total in manufacturing fell, some manufacturing industries employed more workers in December 1983 than in December 1982. Lumber employment rose 2,000 over the year because of the recovery in the homebuilding industry, which uses one-half of all lumber produced. Nationally, housing starts rose to 1.7 million units in 1983, up from 1.06 million units in 1982. The 1982 level was the lowest in 36 years. Lower mortgage rates and the economic expansion were credited with the 1983 recovery in homebuilding and the lumber industries.

Despite the 2,000 job increase in the lumber industry, however, the industry's job total remains far below pre-recession levels. Compared with the 39,900 employed in the lumber industry this December, lumber employment totaled 54,500 in December 1978 and 50,700 in December 1979.

Aluminum employment rose from 8,000 in December 1982 to 9,100 in December 1983, a gain of nearly 14 percent. Other sizable year-to-year gains, in manufacturing included increases of 900 each in chemicals and other durable goods. Most of the growth in chemicals was in the Richland area. An expansion in the manufacture of instruments accounted for most of the new jobs in other durable goods.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

In the nonmanufacturing industries, seasonal losses were offset by seasonal gains in December. Employment in retail trade rose 5,200; retail stores continued to hire temporary workers to help serve holiday shoppers, and the end of the meat cutter's strike saw 800 workers return to their jobs at food stores. Wholesale trade, however, slipped 200 with fruit warehouses reducing employment seasonally.

Employment in the services group (motels-hotels, medical, personal--barber shops, etc.--private education, amusements, legal services, etc.) dropped 100 in December. Employment growth in amusements, resulting from the beginning of the skiing season, offset most seasonal losses in other segments such as agricultural services. Construction employment fell 3,800 to post the largest loss between November and December. The drop was about normal for the industry, however, and resulted from deteriorating weather conditions. Few new building projects are started at this time of the year because poor weather is anticipated by contractors. Therefore, there is little new employment in December to offset losses due to project completions.

Elsewhere in the nonmanufacturing classification, employment in finance, insurance, and real estate dropped 500 with most of the loss in the real estate category. Transportation and public utilities employment and government civilian employment both dropped 300 between November and December. Here, too, losses were normal for this time of the year. Transportation needs are lower because of the general winter slowdown in the economy. Government agencies have less need for outdoor workers in the winter months, and public schools hire few new workers in December because of the long holiday vacation period.

Employment in the nonmanufacturing industries was up 38,800 over the year in December. Payrolls in retail trade rose 12,300, while employment in the services group added 12,200 over the 12-month period. Smaller gains were noted in government (up 7,700), finance-insurance-real estate (up 2,300), and transportation-utilities (up 400). Employment in construction (up 100) was nearly unchanged over the year.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

After a period of rapid growth in the second half of 1983, key indicators of economic activity reported in December show the nation's economy in a pattern of moderate expansion. The rate of civilian unemployment nationally fell one-tenth of a percentage point, from 8.1 percent in November to 8.0 percent in December. This is the smallest decline in the nation's jobless rate since August 1983. Real Gross National Product (GNP) grew at a 4.5 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter of 1983, down from 7.6 percent in the third quarter. Moderation in GNP growth indicates more gradual economic expansion in the months ahead. Movements in the Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators also point to a period of slower and more stable growth. After a November decline of 0.2 percent, the December index rose 0.6 percent. The average monthly increase in the index for all of 1983 was 1.2 percent.

After being led by heavy consumer spending in the second half of 1983, events in December suggest that economic recovery in 1984 will be driven by increased capital investment. This development, a typical phase in the recovery cycle, is especially favorable for Washington State's economy which is heavily concentrated in capital goods production. Despite holiday season buying, retail sales nationally advanced only 0.1 percent in December, due partly to extremely bad weather conditions. Orders for non-defense capital goods (equipment and machinery), however, rose in December by 1.8 percent. Overall, national business investment spending increased in the fourth quarter at a vigorous annual rate of 22.3 percent (up from 18.7 percent in the third and 7.9 percent in the second quarter).

This apparent shift from a consumer to a business led recovery is already being felt in the Pacific Northwest. Marple's Business Newsletter reports that Paccar and Freightliner have increased production of heavy duty trucks; and aluminum plants in the Pacific Northwest are back to nearly full production. December employment in aluminum production and processing in Washington State remained essentially stable at 9,100, compared with 9,200 in November, and 8,600 at the end of the second quarter. The state's transportation equipment industry (excluding aerospace) also maintained fourth quarter gains in employment, with payrolls rising to 15,500 in December (an increase of 100 over November and 500 over October). Employment growth in capital goods industries is expected to continue through most or all of 1984. In its survey of capital spending plans for 1984, the Commerce Department estimates that spending for plant and equipment will rise by 9.9 percent nationally, after a 4.2 percent decline in 1983.

Recent national developments in the housing and airline industries also reflect favorably on key Washington State industries. Although national housing starts and output of construction supplies both fell in December (due partly to bad weather conditions), new home sales across the nation increased by a dramatic 28.5 percent from November to December. The December surge in housing sales suggests that current interest rate levels are sufficiently favorable to maintain strong demand for new housing during 1984. This situation, together with improved weather conditions, should boost employment in the state's construction, lumber, and wood products industries by mid-year.

December also brought positive news about the nation's airline industry. With abatement in industry "price wars", stabilization of labor costs, and a 10 percent drop in fuel costs, the industry reported strong operating profits for the first time since 1980. A healthier national airline industry, generating increased orders, should help Boeing realize its recent forecast that company payrolls in Washington State will jump by 3,000 during 1984. News of British reluctance to subsidize production of Airbus Industrie's new 150 seat airliner (the A-320), promises another potential boost for Washington's aerospace industry. Airbus Industrie, Boeing's chief competitor in the international airline market, began 1984 with 24 unsold aircraft at its primary French assembly plant. 1/

Although prospects for sustained economic growth are considered good, most economists continue to be concerned about large projected Federal budget deficits and chronic imbalances in foreign trade. Unless the most pessimistic scenarios on national deficit and trade issues are realized, however, the Washington State employment picture should brighten in the months ahead due to increased capital investments, strong consumer demand for housing, and a healthier national airline industry.

1/ Business Week, January 16, 1984

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Dec. 1983 (Prel.)	Nov. 1983 (Rev.)	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Change Nov. 83 to Dec. 83	Change Dec. 82 to Dec. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,596.6	1,599.7	1,564.1	1,568.6	-3.1	+32.5
TOTAL MANUFACTURING..............	273.8	277.0	280.1	283.7	-3.2	-6.3
Durable Goods....................	189.7	191.0	197.5	199.0	-1.3	-7.8
Lumber & Wood Products.........	39.9	40.9	37.9	38.7	-1.0	+2.0
Furniture & Fixtures...........	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.0	0.0	+0.4
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod......	5.9	6.0	5.3	5.7	-0.1	+0.6
Primary Metal Industries.......	13.5	13.6	12.5	12.6	-0.1	+1.0
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	9.1	9.2	8.0	8.1	-0.1	+1.1
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.1	9.2	9.5	9.6	-0.1	-0.4
Machinery......................	26.7	26.8	26.7	26.8	-0.1	0.0
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	15.9	16.1	16.2	16.3	-0.2	-0.3
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.8	10.7	10.5	10.5	+0.1	+0.3
Transportation Equipment.......	77.3	77.2	89.6	89.6	+0.1	-12.3
Aerospace.....................	61.8	61.7	71.0	71.4	+0.1	-9.2
Other Transp. Equipment.......	15.5	15.5	18.6	18.2	0.0	-3.1
Other Durable Goods 2/.........	13.9	13.9	13.0	13.0	0.0	+0.9
Nondurable Goods................	84.1	86.0	82.6	84.7	-1.9	+1.5
Food & Kindred Products........	28.5	30.4	29.1	31.3	-1.9	-0.6
Canned & Preserved Foods......	8.5	10.5	9.3	11.7	-2.0	-0.8
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.7	-0.2	+0.3
Paper & Allied Products........	16.0	15.9	15.8	16.0	+0.1	+0.2
Printing & Publishing..........	16.4	16.4	15.9	15.6	0.0	+0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.5	10.4	9.6	9.5	+0.1	+0.9
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	0.0	+0.2
MINING & QUARRYING..............	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.1	+0.1	-0.1
CONSTRUCTION....................	70.1	73.9	70.0	73.8	-3.8	+0.1
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	4/89.2	4/89.5	88.8	89.9	-0.3	+0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	406.2	4/401.2	390.0	385.9	+5.0	+16.2
Wholesale Trade................	100.4	100.6	96.5	97.0	-0.2	+3.9
Retail Trade...................	305.8	4/300.6	293.5	288.9	+5.2	+12.3
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	92.5	93.0	90.2	89.8	-0.5	+2.3
SERVICES........................	329.4	329.5	317.2	317.2	-0.1	+12.2
GOVERNMENT......................	332.5	332.8	324.8	325.2	-0.3	+7.7
Federal........................	67.7	67.6	66.6	66.6	+0.1	+1.1
State & Local..................	264.8	265.2	258.2	258.6	-0.4	+6.6
Education.....................	146.1	146.3	141.0	140.9	-0.2	+5.1
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	-0.8	+0.3

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date Jan. 26, 1964

Benchmark 1962

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	December 1963 Preliminary 3/				November 1963 Revised				December 1962 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,031,400	1,821,700	209,700	10.3	2,038,900	1,833,700	205,200	10.1	2,003,700	1,742,700	261,000	13.0
Bellingham SMSA	51,300	45,300	6,000	11.7	51,200	45,600	5,600	10.9	49,600	42,100	7,500	15.1
Bremerton SMSA	65,300	60,500	4,800	7.4	65,700	60,800	4,900	7.5	62,500	57,000	5,500	8.8
Olympia SMSA	56,600	50,200	6,400	11.3	57,300	50,900	6,400	11.2	55,800	48,500	7,300	13.1
Seattle-Everett SMSA	904,800	827,500	77,300	8.5	905,100	827,200	77,900	8.6	888,500	793,100	95,400	10.7
Spokane SMSA	155,100	141,300	13,800	8.9	155,800	142,200	13,600	8.7	152,700	133,600	19,100	12.5
Tacoma SMSA	193,300	171,900	21,400	11.1	192,900	171,400	21,500	11.1	186,400	161,000	25,400	13.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	73,500	63,200	10,300	14.0	74,300	64,000	10,300	13.9	77,400	64,700	12,700	16.4
Yakima SMSA	81,200	68,100	13,100	16.1	81,000	69,400	11,600	14.3	79,100	64,700	14,400	18.2
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	36,810	32,150	4,660	12.7	37,120	32,940	4,180	11.3	36,520	30,150	6,370	17.4
Adams	6,980	5,890	1,090	15.6	7,210	6,290	920	12.8	6,580	5,430	1,150	17.5
Asotin	8,050	7,270	780	9.7	8,090	7,360	730	9.0	8,020	6,860	1,160	14.5
Clallam	19,460	16,700	2,760	14.2	20,070	16,720	3,350	16.7	19,880	15,390	4,490	22.6
Clark	93,590	85,210	8,380	9.0	93,440	85,300	8,140	8.7	93,650	82,780	10,870	11.6
Columbia	2,090	1,700	390	18.7	2,120	1,770	350	16.5	2,120	1,610	510	24.1
Cowlitz	33,730	29,100	4,630	13.7	33,790	29,020	4,770	14.1	32,930	26,630	6,300	19.1
Ferry	2,480	2,120	360	14.5	2,510	2,180	330	13.1	2,310	1,800	510	22.1
Garfield	1,020	920	100	9.8	1,070	980	90	8.4	1,020	910	110	10.8
Grant	22,680	19,320	3,360	14.8	23,210	20,090	3,120	13.4	21,810	18,030	3,780	17.3
Grays Harbor	28,740	24,350	4,390	15.3	29,610	25,360	4,250	14.4	33,370	27,620	5,750	17.2
Island	15,060	13,720	1,340	8.9	15,070	13,740	1,330	8.8	14,340	12,850	1,490	10.4
Jefferson	6,460	5,840	620	9.6	6,430	5,820	610	9.5	6,400	5,550	850	13.3
Kittitas	10,780	9,300	1,480	13.7	11,060	9,850	1,210	10.9	10,140	8,540	1,600	15.8
Klickitat	6,760	5,610	1,150	17.0	6,990	5,910	1,080	15.5	7,000	5,310	1,690	24.1
Lewis	24,140	20,240	3,900	16.2	24,310	20,800	3,510	14.4	24,270	19,750	4,520	18.6
Lincoln	3,700	3,490	210	5.7	3,780	3,570	210	5.6	3,690	3,430	260	7.0
Mason	10,740	9,280	1,460	13.6	11,270	10,130	1,140	10.1	10,760	8,930	1,830	17.0
Okanogan	14,770	12,150	2,620	17.7	14,920	12,640	2,280	15.3	15,140	11,770	3,370	22.3
Pacific	7,070	5,880	1,190	16.8	7,100	5,880	1,220	17.2	7,340	5,730	1,610	21.9
Pend Oreille	2,950	2,410	540	18.3	3,030	2,480	550	18.2	3,210	2,210	1,000	31.2
San Juan	3,580	3,290	290	8.1	3,700	3,430	270	7.3	3,040	2,600	440	14.5
Skagit	33,160	28,180	4,980	15.0	33,380	28,930	4,450	13.3	31,810	25,750	6,060	19.1
Skamania	2,920	2,260	660	22.6	2,880	2,380	500	17.4	3,290	2,300	990	30.1
Stevens	10,860	9,100	1,760	16.2	10,980	9,310	1,670	15.2	11,880	9,110	2,770	23.3
Wahkiakum	1,200	1,060	140	11.7	1,240	1,130	110	8.9	1,410	1,120	290	20.6
Walla Walla	25,160	22,300	2,860	11.4	25,440	22,930	2,510	9.9	24,680	21,560	3,120	12.6
Whitman	15,690	15,100	590	3.8	15,820	15,300	520	3.3	14,980	14,230	750	5.0

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates must be used for Federal program purposes

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

January 26, 1984
Benchmark 1982

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 1983 Preliminary 3/				November 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,072,400	1,853,800	218,600	10.5	2,074,700	1,860,900	213,800	10.3
Bellingham SMSA	52,300	46,100	6,200	11.9	52,100	46,300	5,800	11.1
Bremerton SMSA	66,500	61,500	5,000	7.5	66,800	61,700	5,100	7.6
Olympia SMSA	57,700	51,000	6,700	11.6	58,300	51,700	6,600	11.3
Snohomish County	196,800	176,600	20,200	10.3	195,300	176,100	19,200	9.8
King County	725,800	665,400	60,400	8.3	725,400	663,400	62,000	8.5
Spokane SMSA	158,100	143,800	14,300	9.0	158,400	144,300	14,100	8.9
Tacoma SMSA	197,200	174,900	22,300	11.3	196,300	173,900	22,400	11.4
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,000	64,300	10,700	14.3	75,700	65,000	10,700	14.1
Yakima SMSA	82,900	69,300	13,600	16.4	82,600	70,500	12,100	14.6
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,580	32,720	4,860	12.9	37,790	33,430	4,360	11.5
Adams	7,130	6,000	1,130	15.8	7,340	6,380	960	13.1
Asotin	8,220	7,400	820	10.0	8,230	7,470	760	9.2
Clallam	19,870	16,990	2,880	14.5	20,460	16,970	3,490	17.1
Clark	95,450	86,720	8,730	9.1	95,040	86,560	8,480	8.9
Columbia	2,140	1,730	410	19.2	2,170	1,800	370	17.1
Cowlitz	34,450	29,620	4,830	14.0	34,420	29,450	4,970	14.4
Ferry	2,540	2,160	380	15.0	2,560	2,210	350	13.7
Garfield	1,050	940	110	10.5	1,090	990	100	9.2
Grant	23,160	19,660	3,500	15.1	23,640	20,390	3,250	13.7
Grays Harbor	29,360	24,780	4,580	15.6	30,170	25,740	4,430	14.7
Island	15,370	13,970	1,400	9.1	15,340	13,950	1,390	9.1
Jefferson	6,600	5,950	650	9.8	6,550	5,910	640	9.8
Kittitas	11,010	9,470	1,540	14.0	11,260	10,000	1,260	11.2
Klickitat	6,910	5,710	1,200	17.4	7,120	6,000	1,120	15.7
Lewis	24,660	20,600	4,060	16.5	24,760	21,110	3,650	14.7
Lincoln	3,770	3,550	220	5.8	3,840	3,620	220	5.7
Mason	10,970	9,450	1,520	13.9	11,470	10,280	1,190	10.4
Okanogan	15,100	12,370	2,730	18.1	15,200	12,830	2,370	15.6
Pacific	7,220	5,980	1,240	17.2	7,240	5,970	1,270	17.5
Pend Oreille	3,020	2,460	560	18.5	3,090	2,520	570	18.4
San Juan	3,650	3,350	300	8.2	3,760	3,480	280	7.4
Skagit	33,880	28,680	5,200	15.3	34,000	29,360	4,640	13.6
Skamania	2,990	2,300	690	23.1	2,930	2,410	520	17.7
Stevens	11,100	9,260	1,840	16.6	11,190	9,450	1,740	15.5
Wahkiakum	1,220	1,080	140	11.5	1,270	1,150	120	9.4
Walla Walla	25,670	22,690	2,980	11.6	25,880	23,270	2,610	10.1
Whitman	15,970	15,360	610	3.8	16,070	15,520	550	3.4

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Nov. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly earnings		
		Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	174,400	$454.74	$455.86	$438.12	38.9	39.4	37.9	$11.69	$11.57	$11.56
Lumber and wood products	37,700	420.66	447.27	407.45	36.9	39.2	35.4	11.40	11.41	11.51
Primary metal industries	10,600	543.66	554.60	528.43	41.0	40.9	40.4	13.26	13.56	13.08
Fabricated metal products	6,700	475.21	465.31	480.79	39.7	39.3	40.2	11.97	11.84	11.96
Machinery 1/	15,300	388.14	384.12	367.30	40.6	39.6	38.3	9.56	9.70	9.59
Transportation equipment	33,000	571.18	559.54	559.50	41.3	40.4	41.2	13.83	13.85	13.58
Food and kindred products	22,600	351.02	354.37	326.46	35.6	37.9	34.4	9.62	9.35	9.49
Chemicals and allied products	5,000	523.77	523.74	483.34	42.2	42.0	41.1	12.53	12.47	11.76
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	54,400	603.63	648.22	650.40	35.3	37.6	35.1	17.10	17.24	18.53
Wholesale and retail trade	251,000	307.24	325.61	307.46	34.1	35.9	34.2	9.01	9.07	8.99

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.

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JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 2 February 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment in Washington State fell 44,700 from December to January because of the effect of January's cold weather on outdoor employment and the termination of thousands of temporary holiday workers in retail trade. As a result, the number of unemployed workers in Washington State jumped to 239,000 and 11.8 percent of the labor force in January. The revised December unemployment estimate was 211,000 and 10.3 percent.

The year-to-year comparison, however, continued to reflect the economic recovery underway in the state. Total employment rose 67,000 between January 1983 and 1984 with 46,400 of the new jobs in the nonagricultural wage and salary classification. Contrasted with the December-January seasonal rise, unemployment in January 1984 was 37,400 and two percentage points lower than in January 1983. Moreover, January or February usually mark the high point for unemployment each year, and

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983*	Jan. 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,031,000	2,047,700	2,001,400
Employment	1,792,000	1,836,700	1,725,000
Unemployment	239,000	211,000	276,400
State Rate	11.8	10.3	13.8
National Civilian Rate	8.8	8.0	11.4

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

we can expect expanding job opportunities to lower unemployment substantially in subsequent months. Nationally, the civilian unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in January, up from 8.0 percent in December but down from 11.4 percent in January 1983 (data are not seasonally adjusted).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Unemployment increased in nearly all areas of the state in January. The largest increases and the highest unemployment rates, though, were east of the Cascades where the weather was more severe. Unemployment in the Yakima area jumped from 16.3 to 20.7 percent between December and January. Agriculture, food processing and related activities which dominate the area's economy are at their low point each January. Tourist business, which is also important in Yakima, was down seasonally too. In the Spokane and Richland areas, where economic activity is more diversified, the increase in unemployment was less pronounced. In the Spokane Metropolitan Area the rate rose from 8.9 to 10.7 percent between December and January, while the rate in the Richland Metropolitan area rose from 14.0 to 15.6 percent.

In Western Washington, the jobless rate in the Tacoma Metropolitan Area rose from 11.1 to 12.6 percent over the month, matching the 1.5 point rise statewide. The unemployment rate in Thurston County rose more moderately, from 11.2 to 11.5 percent, because of temporary jobs created by the beginning of a new legislative session. The rate for the Seattle Metropolitan Area rose from 8.5 to 9.4 percent over the month and remained well below the statewide rate. The Seattle area, of course, is less dependent on agriculture, food processing and lumber for jobs than most other areas of the state.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment fell 2,000 from December to January but was down only 200 over the year in the latter month. Losses in the December-January period were largely seasonal. Lumber employment fell 1,500 with over one-half of the loss in logging. Seasonal demand for lumber declines in the winter because of fewer housing starts. In addition, snow depth at higher elevations often forces logging operations to shut down during winter months regardless of the demand for logs. Employment in food products dropped 1,100 in January but remained slightly above its year-earlier level. Seasonal factors were largely responsible for the decline in the food industry also.

Offsetting some of the seasonal losses in manufacturing, growth in shipbuilding boosted other transportation equipment payrolls by 600. Aerospace employment added 200 in January to post a modest gain for the third successive month.

Payroll growth in several manufacturing industries between January 1983 and 1984 was nearly sufficient to offset a year-to-year drop of 8,200 in aerospace. Fortunately, aerospace payrolls are now expanding moderately, but they are still considerably below year-ago levels.

Industries credited with employment gains over the past 12 months include lumber (up 1,900) aluminum (up 1,400), chemicals (up 800), instruments (up 700) and machinery (up 700).

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Employment in all of the major nonmanufacturing industries declined because of seasonal factors between December and January. All except construction, however, employed more workers in January 1984 than in January 1983. Employment in retail trade fell 12,600 from December to January following the termination of temporary workers for the holiday sales period. Year to year, though, employment at retail outlets jumped 15,900 to account for over one-third of all new wage and salary jobs over the year. Wholesale trade employment was also down from December but up over the year. Payrolls at wholesale houses fell 2,600 in January because of less activity at firms handling fruits and vegetables. A year-to-year increase of 6,300 was posted by wholesale houses to support the resurgence in retail sales.

Construction employment fell 4,600 from December to January with few new projects scheduled until spring and work on existing outdoor projects curtailed because of adverse weather conditions. Construction employment was down 1,300 over the year largely because of the completion or termination of work on large projects, including nuclear power plants.

Elsewhere in the nonmanufacturing group, civilian government payrolls fell 2,200 over the month. Seasonal job losses at parks, forests, and in other outdoor work were only partially offset by employment gains associated with the beginning of a new legislative session. Government employment was up 9,800 over the year in January. It should be noted that civilian government payrolls were 1,100 below their total in January 1981 despite recent increases. A number of Federally-funded programs were reduced or eliminated in 1982. In addition, state and local public employment was trimmed because the recession reduced tax revenue.

Seasonal factors were negative in the service industries and employment fell 3,200 in January. The largest cutbacks were noted in membership organizations (Elks, Eagles, etc.), private education, and hotels-motels. Employment in services rose sharply over the year (up 9,300) with consumers spending more freely on amusements and travel (hotels-motels). In addition, medical services continued to expand. December-January seasonal losses were also noted in finance-insurance-real estate (down 600) and transportation-communications-utilities (down 1,100). Both industries, however, posted moderate gains of 3,100 over the year.

ESTIMATES REVISED

Resident civilian labor force, employment, and unemployment estimates for 1983 have been adjusted to 1983 average annual data from that portion of the national Current Population Survey conducted in this state. Estimates for 1970-1982 have also been revised. Tables containing the revised data are included in this report.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates for 1982 and 1983 have also been revised. Current nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates prepared by the Employment Security Department are based upon monthly reports received from over 4,700 cooperating firms. While estimates prepared from these reports are timely, they lack the accuracy of estimates based upon more complete data contained in tax returns received at later dates from establishments covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act and from reports on Federal civilian employment. Reports on covered and Federal civilian employment provide almost complete counts of nonagricultural wage and salary employment. The major exceptions to covered employment are railroad employment, employment in religious organizations, and at private, primary and secondary educational institutions. Most corporate officers are also excluded.

Each year estimates are updated to conform with the latest tax return data and the best available information on non-covered wage and salary employment. The 1982 estimates are based on tax return data for the entire year, while those for 1983 are based on tax data through March 1983. Tables containing the revised 1982 and 1983 nonagricultural wage and salary estimates are included in this report.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The nation's economy showed renewed strength in January as key indicators rose sharply above the more modest gains reported in the fourth quarter of 1983. The rate of civilian unemployment nationally grew by 0.8 of a percentage point, from 8.0 percent in December to a January level of 8.8 percent. The increase in the national jobless rate, as in the state, was due mainly to layoffs in weather sensitive industries and post holiday job losses in retail trade. Still, the decline nationally was small by January standards. The seasonally adjusted rate, which filters out recurrent seasonal fluctuations, fell 0.2 of a percentage point between December and January. Job losses nationally in construction and retail trade were well below normal declines for this time of year.

Continued progress in national labor market conditions was aided and paralled by January advances in production, personal income, retail sales, housing starts, and capital investment. Healthy January gains, well above moderate fourth quarter rates, were posted in all of these areas. The Commerce Department's composite index of leading indicators advanced a brisk 1.1 percent in January, following no change in the combined November and December figures.

The dramatic rise in housing starts during January, to an annual rate of 1.9 million units, was the best performance nationally since December 1978. A revitalized housing market and a 29 percent gain in capital spending during the fourth quarter were the main ingredients in a continually improving national employment picture. Taking seasonal adjustments into account, construction employment nationally rose by 100,000, exceeding the March 1983 recessionary low by nearly 450,000. Job gains were also strong in capital goods industries, including machinery, electrical equipment, and transportation equipment.

With some important differences, Washington State labor market activity during January corresponded to national developments. As the national recovery cycle moves into an advanced phase, the State's capital goods industries continue to benefit from the quickened pace of business spending. January payroll increases in the state were recorded in aluminum products and processing, machinery, and transportation equipment. The latter includes both aerospace and other transportation equipment. Washington State also continues to take part in the year-long national resurgence in consumer spending, a trend which shows no signs of abating. January 1984 employment in the state's retail trades was nearly 5.7 percent above January 1983. (The year-to-year increase in December was 5.1 percent.)

Employment in the state construction and the lumber and wood products industries has not followed national developments as closely. A relatively sluggish housing recovery in the Pacific Northwest, due in part to a slowdown in state and regional population growth, has inhibited recovery in construction and lumber. In southern and sun-belt states, where the national housing boom is concentrated, population growth has been much steeper, with a large in-migration of young professionals and many first time home buyers. During the Washington State housing boom of the late seventies, net population increases averaged approximately 100,000 per year, with 80 percent due to in-migration. According to the State Office of Financial Management, the average yearly population increase for 1981-83 was only 50,000 per year, with a net migration component of only +41,000 for the entire three year period. The slower rate of recovery in regional lumber is due also, in part, to the industry's historically large export business. The high price of American goods abroad continues to harm all domestic industries with sizeable foreign markets.

Despite these trends, the recession in the lumber and wood products industry was halted in 1983, with payrolls increasing 5.2 percent from January 1983 to January 1984. The largest gains are reported in companies with diversified operations in both timber and paper products. The construction industry fared less well over the past year posting a slight drop in employment of 2.0 percent, yet holding steady after the large employment losses of 1981-82. Recent evidence that the housing recovery will be more evenly distributed in 1984 is a welcome sign for the state's labor force. Sales of new homes increased by 5.7 percent in the West during January, in contrast to a national trend which saw an 8.0 percent January drop in new home sales. Nationally, employment in construction and lumber and wood products rose 7.3 percent and 14.9 percent, respectively, from January 1983 to January 1984.

In other national developments, McDonnell-Douglas, The Boeing Company's chief domestic competitor in the commercial airline industry, announced a sale of 67 of its new MD-80 jetliners to American Airlines. The near record sale will keep McDonnell-Douglas from abandoning its commercial airline division, as the Lockheed Corporation had done earlier. The recession in the commerical airline industry forced McDonnell-Douglas to cancel two other major airline production programs. In a related development abroad, the British Government ended speculation that it would refuse to help finance Airbus Industrie's A-320 jet, a medium range airliner designed to compete with The Boeing Company's 737-300. Britian's loan of $370 million toward the A-320, however, fell short of a requested $647 million in aid. 1/ (In an earlier decision, the Canadian Government chose not to participate in development of the A-320.) The outlook for The Boeing Company, however, continues to be bright, according to Boeing's Director of Market Research, Thomas R. Craig. Mr. Craig predicts that "sales of commercial airplanes will remain sluggish for about four years, but will improve to all-time record levels over the next decade." with Boeing's share of the market holding steady at about 55 to 60 percent. 2/

Although prospects for sustained economic recovery are considered good, the national January spurt raises questions about the pace of growth in the month's ahead. Rapid growth could increase inflation and interest rates during 1984. The national producer price index in January showed its largest jump since November 1982. Much of this gain was due to a jump in food prices caused by extremely bad weather

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1/ Wall Street Journal, March 2, 1984.

2/ Seattle Times, January 24, 1984.

conditions, having their harshest impact on Southern and Mid-western produce (and prices). January prices in the Seattle-Everett area, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), grew at only one-third the national rate. More generic forces, however, may combine to increase inflation in all parts of the nation. These include a slowdown in worker productivity gains; pressures to restore wage losses of the past three years; and rapidly diminishing factory capacity, as both consumer and business spending forge ahead.

Even with a modest rise in inflation, however, improving weather conditions, a regional pick-up in housing starts, and continued increases in capital investment should result in steady gains for the Washington labor force through at least the fall of 1984.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/
(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Jan. 1984 (Prel.)	Dec. 1983 (Rev.)	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1982	Change	
					Dec.83 to Jan.84	Jan.83 to Jan.84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	1,572.4	1,601.4	1,526.0	1,562.6	-29.0	46.4
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	271.7	273.7	271.9	275.8	-2.0	-0.2
Durable Goods	188.3	189.0	190.9	193.5	-0.7	-2.6
Lumber & Wood Products	38.5	40.0	36.6	37.3	-1.5	+1.9
Furniture & Fixtures	3.4	3.4	2.9	3.0	0.0	+0.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.7	-0.1	+0.3
Primary Metal Industries	13.2	13.1	11.8	12.4	+0.1	+1.4
Aluminum Prod. & Processing	8.9	8.8	7.5	7.9	+0.1	+1.4
Fabricated Metal Products	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.5	-0.1	0.0
Machinery	26.1	26.0	25.4	25.5	+0.1	+0.7
Machinery (Exc. Elect.)	15.1	15.0	14.8	15.2	+0.1	+0.3
Electrical & Elec. Equip.	11.0	11.0	10.6	10.3	0.0	+0.4
Transportation Equipment	78.6	77.8	86.9	87.2	+0.8	-8.3
Aerospace	62.1	61.9	70.3	70.8	+0.2	-8.2
Other Transp. Equipment	16.5	15.9	16.6	16.4	+0.6	-0.1
Instruments & Related Prod.	9.7	9.7	9.0	9.0	0.0	+0.7
Misc. Manufacturing Indus.	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	0.0	+0.2
Nondurable Goods	83.4	84.7	81.0	82.3	-1.3	+2.4
Food & Kindred Products	28.4	29.5	28.1	29.1	-1.1	+0.3
Canned & Preserved Foods	8.7	9.0	8.9	9.1	-0.3	-0.2
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.	5.8	5.9	5.5	5.5	-0.1	+0.3
Paper & Allied Products	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.8	0.0	0.0
Printing & Publishing	16.2	16.3	15.7	15.8	-0.1	+0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.4	10.4	9.6	9.7	0.0	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 2/	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.4	0.0	+0.5
MINING & QUARRYING	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.5	-0.1	+0.4
CONSTRUCTION	63.6	68.2	64.9	71.4	-4.6	-1.3
TRANS., COMM., & UTILITIES	87.7	88.8 3/	84.6	87.4	-1.1	+3.1
TRADE	397.2	412.4	375.0	392.8	-15.2	+22.2
Wholesale Trade	100.5	103.1	94.2	99.4	-2.6	+6.3
Retail Trade	296.7	309.3	280.8	293.4	-12.6	+15.9
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	92.3	92.9	89.2	90.2	-0.6	+3.1
SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS	323.9	327.1	314.6	318.1	-3.2	+9.3
GOVERNMENT	333.2	335.4	323.4	324.4	-2.2	+9.8
(WORKERS IN LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.0

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

3/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date March 5, 1984

Benchmark 1983

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	January 1984 Preliminary 3/				December 1983 Revised				January 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,031,000	1,792,000	239,000	11.8	2,047,700	1,836,700	211,000	10.3	2,001,400	1,725,000	276,400	13.8
Bellingham SMSA	49,200	42,400	6,800	13.8	51,800	45,800	6,000	11.6	50,400	42,300	8,100	16.1
Bremerton SMSA	64,600	59,300	5,300	8.2	64,900	60,100	4,800	7.4	62,700	57,100	5,600	8.9
Olympia SMSA	57,200	50,600	6,600	11.5	57,800	51,300	6,500	11.2	57,200	49,500	7,700	13.5
Seattle-Everett SMSA	902,100	817,700	84,400	9.4	908,500	831,600	77,000	8.5	880,500	782,500	98,000	11.1
Spokane SMSA	153,200	136,800	16,400	10.7	154,700	140,900	13,800	8.9	151,900	131,400	20,500	13.5
Tacoma SMSA	190,200	166,300	23,900	12.6	191,200	170,000	21,200	11.1	187,000	160,500	26,500	14.2
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,300	62,700	11,600	15.6	74,300	63,900	10,400	14.0	76,800	64,200	12,600	16.4
Yakima SMSA	83,700	66,400	17,300	20.7	83,600	70,000	13,600	16.3	83,700	65,700	18,000	21.5
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,050	30,880	6,170	16.7	37,060	32,470	4,590	12.4	37,300	29,040	8,260	22.1
Adams	7,580	6,330	1,250	16.5	7,390	6,250	1,140	15.4	6,420	5,450	970	15.1
Asotin	8,620	7,730	890	10.3	8,520	7,720	800	9.4	8,340	7,180	1,160	13.9
Clallam	19,560	15,860	3,700	18.9	19,670	16,790	2,880	14.6	19,720	15,440	4,280	21.7
Clark	93,250	84,470	8,780	9.4	94,070	85,610	8,460	9.0	94,400	81,910	12,490	13.2
Columbia	1,670	1,280	390	23.4	1,740	1,370	370	21.3	1,870	1,320	550	29.4
Cowlitz	32,720	27,820	4,900	15.0	33,540	28,920	4,620	13.8	33,390	27,100	6,290	18.8
Ferry	2,670	2,070	600	22.5	2,590	2,190	400	15.4	2,420	1,900	520	21.5
Garfield	1,190	1,080	110	9.2	1,180	1,070	110	9.3	1,050	930	120	11.4
Grant	23,380	19,130	4,250	18.2	23,800	20,390	3,410	14.3	21,350	17,420	3,930	18.4
Grays Harbor	28,300	23,660	4,640	16.4	28,850	24,420	4,430	15.4	32,070	26,290	5,780	18.0
Island	15,220	13,700	1,520	10.0	15,420	14,050	1,370	8.9	14,090	12,600	1,490	10.6
Jefferson	6,520	5,710	810	12.4	6,430	5,810	620	9.6	6,210	5,260	950	15.3
Kittitas	11,120	9,310	1,810	16.3	11,360	9,850	1,510	13.3	10,560	8,650	1,910	18.1
Klickitat	7,110	5,550	1,560	21.9	7,060	5,850	1,210	17.1	6,850	4,810	2,040	29.8
Lewis	24,190	20,160	4,030	16.7	24,580	20,600	3,980	16.2	23,510	18,750	4,760	20.2
Lincoln	4,160	3,870	290	7.0	4,230	4,000	230	5.4	3,730	3,430	300	8.0
Mason	10,500	9,090	1,410	13.4	11,130	9,640	1,490	13.4	10,640	8,830	1,810	17.0
Okanogan	15,270	12,070	3,200	21.0	15,310	12,680	2,630	17.2	15,380	11,510	3,870	25.2
Pacific	7,070	5,890	1,180	16.7	7,070	5,870	1,200	17.0	7,090	5,480	1,610	22.7
Pend Oreille	4,070	3,300	770	18.9	3,940	3,360	580	14.7	3,520	2,460	1,060	30.1
San Juan	3,560	3,180	380	10.7	3,620	3,330	290	8.0	3,250	2,800	450	13.8
Skagit	33,540	27,200	6,340	18.9	33,880	28,860	5,020	14.8	32,180	25,520	6,660	20.7
Skamania	3,020	2,110	910	30.1	3,020	2,320	700	23.2	2,860	1,820	1,040	36.4
Stevens	11,520	9,260	2,260	19.6	11,550	9,650	1,900	16.4	12,140	9,130	3,010	24.8
Wahkiakum	1,360	1,180	180	13.2	1,270	1,120	150	11.8	1,210	1,050	160	13.2
Walla Walla	25,940	22,260	3,680	14.2	25,750	22,790	2,960	11.5	24,460	21,290	3,170	13.0
Whitman	16,250	15,530	720	4.4	16,740	16,120	620	3.7	15,160	14,350	810	5.3

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

March 5, 1984
Benchmark 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 1984 Preliminary 3/				December 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,059,400	1,807,200	252,200	12.2	2,047,700	1,836,700	211,000	10.3
Bellingham SMSA	50,000	42,800	7,200	14.4	51,800	45,800	6,000	11.6
Bremerton SMSA	65,400	59,800	5,600	8.6	64,900	60,100	4,800	7.4
Olympia SMSA	58,000	51,000	7,000	12.1	57,800	51,300	6,500	11.2
King County	716,800	651,600	65,200	9.1	714,900	657,100	57,800	8.1
Snohomish County	196,900	173,000	23,900	12.1	193,700	174,500	19,200	9.9
Spokane SMSA	155,300	138,000	17,300	11.1	154,700	140,900	13,800	8.9
Tacoma SMSA	192,900	167,700	25,200	13.1	191,200	170,000	21,200	11.1
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,400	63,200	12,200	16.2	74,300	63,900	10,400	14.0
Yakima SMSA	85,300	67,000	18,300	21.5	83,600	70,000	13,600	16.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,660	31,150	6,510	17.3	37,060	32,470	4,590	12.4
Adams	7,700	6,380	1,320	17.1	7,390	6,250	1,140	15.4
Asotin	8,740	7,800	940	10.8	8,520	7,720	800	9.4
Clallam	19,910	16,000	3,910	19.6	19,670	16,790	2,880	14.6
Clark	94,460	85,190	9,270	9.8	94,070	85,610	8,460	9.0
Columbia	1,700	1,290	410	24.1	1,740	1,370	370	21.3
Cowlitz	33,220	28,050	5,170	15.6	33,540	28,920	4,620	13.8
Ferry	2,720	2,090	630	23.2	2,590	2,190	400	15.4
Garfield	1,200	1,090	110	9.2	1,180	1,070	110	9.3
Grant	23,790	19,300	4,490	18.9	23,800	20,390	3,410	14.3
Grays Harbor	28,760	23,860	4,900	17.0	28,850	24,420	4,430	15.4
Island	15,430	13,820	1,610	10.4	15,420	14,050	1,370	8.9
Jefferson	6,610	5,760	850	12.9	6,480	5,860	620	9.6
Kittitas	11,300	9,390	1,910	16.9	11,360	9,850	1,510	13.3
Klickitat	7,250	5,600	1,650	22.8	7,060	5,850	1,210	17.1
Lewis	24,590	20,340	4,250	17.3	24,580	20,600	3,980	16.2
Lincoln	4,210	3,900	310	7.4	4,230	4,000	230	5.4
Mason	10,660	9,170	1,490	14.0	11,130	9,640	1,490	13.4
Okanogan	15,540	12,170	3,370	21.7	15,310	12,680	2,630	17.2
Pacific	7,190	5,940	1,250	17.4	7,070	5,870	1,200	17.0
Pend Oreille	4,140	3,330	810	19.6	3,940	3,360	580	14.7
San Juan	3,610	3,210	400	11.1	3,620	3,330	290	8.0
Skagit	34,130	27,430	6,700	19.6	33,880	28,860	5,020	14.8
Skamania	3,090	2,130	960	31.1	3,020	2,320	700	23.2
Stevens	11,730	9,340	2,390	20.4	11,560	9,660	1,900	16.4
Wahkiakum	1,390	1,200	190	13.7	1,270	1,120	150	11.8
Walla Walla	26,340	22,450	3,890	14.8	25,750	22,790	2,960	11.5
Whitman	16,420	15,660	760	4.6	16,740	16,120	620	3.7

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Dec. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly earnings		
		Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES..............	172,800	$457.02	$445.42	$447.37	39.5	38.8	38.6	$11.57	$11.48	$11.59
Lumber and wood products.................	36,400	429.37	409.14	403.64	38.2	36.4	35.5	11.24	11.24	11.37
Primary metal industries.................	10,300	544.38	540.38	538.07	40.9	41.0	41.2	13.31	13.18	13.06
Fabricated metal products................	6,600	480.78	479.18	501.43	40.3	40.2	41.0	11.93	11.92	12.23
Machinery 1/.............................	16,100	401.58	405.66	390.62	40.4	41.1	39.9	9.94	9.87	9.79
Transportation equipment.................	33,200	551.33	558.49	563.99	40.9	41.4	41.5	13.48	13.49	13.59
Food and kindred products................	21,600	365.77	342.61	347.33	37.4	36.8	36.6	9.78	9.31	9.49
Chemicals and allied products............	5,100	538.87	536.36	485.48	42.7	42.3	40.9	12.62	12.68	11.87
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction...............................	48,800	610.03	584.74	647.17	35.8	34.6	35.5	17.04	16.90	18.23
Wholesale and retail trade.................	257,600	315.42	302.85	316.48	35.6	33.8	35.6	8.86	8.96	8.89

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, 1982
(In Thousands) (Benchmark: March 1983)

1982
Revised

Industry	Annual 2/ Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TOTAL	1,568.6	1,556.8	1,554.4	1,567.8	1,573.8	1,576.7	1,594.5	1,560.6	1,558.8	1,581.6	1,571.5	1,564.1	1,562.6
Manufacturing	289.0	291.9	290.7	292.0	292.3	290.3	292.6	291.3	290.5	293.5	287.1	280.2	275.8
Durable Goods	203.5	209.3	207.9	208.8	209.0	205.6	205.6	204.0	202.6	202.1	198.2	195.5	193.5
Lumber & Wood Products	39.4	37.3	37.4	38.4	39.0 1/	38.5	40.4	42.0	41.3	42.2	40.2	38.5	37.3
Furniture & Fixtures	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.7
Primary Metals	13.7	15.0 1/	14.8 1/	14.7 1/	14.5 1/	14.1 1/	14.1 1/	13.5 1/	13.3 1/	13.2	12.7	12.5	12.4
Aluminum	8.6	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.0	7.9	7.9
Fabricated Metal Products	9.9	10.0	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.5
Machinery	27.2	28.4	28.3	28.6	28.4	27.8	27.6	27.1	26.5	26.5	26.0	25.6	25.5
Machinery (exc. electrical)	16.6	17.5	17.5	17.7	17.7	17.2	17.0	16.5	16.0	16.0	15.6	15.3	15.2
Electrical Equipment	10.6	10.9	10.8	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.3
Transportation Equipment	92.1	98.1	97.2	96.5	95.8	94.2	92.4	90.0	[illegible]	88.6	87.9	87.4	87.2
Aerospace	74.9	79.8	78.6	77.8	77.1	76.1	75.0	74.2	73.6	72.8	71.9	71.3	70.8
Other Transportation Equip.	17.2	18.3	18.6	18.7	18.7	18.1	17.4	15.8	16.4	15.8	16.0	16.1	16.4
Instruments & Related Prod.	8.4	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.0
Misc. Manufacturing Indus.	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
Nondurable Goods	85.5	82.6	82.8	83.2	83.3	84.7	87.0	87.3	87.9	91.4	88.9	84.7	82.3
Food & Kindred Products	31.8	28.9	29.4	29.9	30.0	31.4	32.6	33.3	33.4	37.0	35.1	31.4	29.1
Canned & Preserved Foods	11.5	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.5	11.4	12.6	12.8	12.5	16.1	14.5	11.3	9.1
Apparel & Allied Products	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.5
Paper & Allied Products	16.1	16.5	16.3	16.2	15.9	15.8	16.4	16.3	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.8	15.8
Printing & Publishing	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.9	15.9	16.0	15.7	15.6	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.8
Chemicals & Allied Products	9.5	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.7
Other Nondurable Goods	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4
Nonmanufacturing	1,279.6	1,264.9	1,263.7	1,275.8	1,281.5	1,286.4	1,301.9	1,269.3	1,268.3	1,288.1	1,284.4	1,283.9	1,286.8
Mining & Quarrying	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5
Construction	76.2	73.0	72.7	75.2	75.9	76.7	78.0 1/	79.6 1/	80.6	80.3	77.3	73.9	71.4
Transp., Comm., & Utilities	89.0	88.1	87.0	88.2	88.7 1/	88.9 1/	90.2 1/	90.3 1/	90.2 1/	90.9	88.9	88.6	87.4
Trade	385.4	381.3	375.8	377.5	381.2	384.6	387.9	386.8	389.5	392.3	386.6	388.1	392.8
Wholesale Trade	100.9	100.4	100.4	100.6	100.5	100.4	100.5	101.8	101.6	103.0	101.9	100.4	99.4
Retail Trade	284.5	280.9	275.4	276.9	280.7	284.2	287.4	285.0	287.9	289.3	284.7	287.7	293.4
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	90.7	90.7	90.8	91.2	90.6	90.8	91.2	91.4	91.2	90.7	89.5	89.6	90.2
Services & Miscellaneous	316.9	309.6	312.1	315.3	316.7 1/	316.0 1/	318.1 1/	318.9 1/	319.4	323.9	318.3	316.6	318.1
Government	318.5	319.2	322.3	325.3	325.3	326.2	333.2	299.1	294.4	307.2	321.0	324.4	324.4
Federal	66.3	65.4	64.8	65.0	65.5	66.0	67.1	68.0	67.7	66.8	66.4	66.4	66.6
State & Local	252.2	253.8	257.5	260.3	259.8	260.2	266.1	231.1	226.7	240.4	254.6	258.0	257.6
Education	132.9	136.1	140.5	142.2	141.6	141.8	142.3	107.1	103.6	119.8	137.2	141.2	141.3
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.7	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-mangement disputes.
2/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, 1983

(In Thousands) (Benchmark: March 1983)

1983
Preliminary

Industry	Annual 2/ Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TOTAL	1,579.3	1,526.0	1,528.6	1,544.1	1,568.8	1,581.9	1,611.9	1,585.9	1,581.4	1,610.8	1,612.1	1,604.3	1,601.4
Manufacturing	276.8	271.9	270.5	272.1	275.7	277.1	281.2	279.8	279.2	281.1	282.2	277.3	273.7
Durable Goods	191.1	190.9	190.1	190.5	192.3	192.4	193.8	193.1	189.4	189.5	191.7	190.7	189.0
Lumber & Wood Products	41.2	36.6	38.0	38.7	40.5	42.2	43.8	44.1	43.7	43.4	42.3	41.0	40.0
Furniture & Fixtures	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.8
Primary Metals	12.6	11.8	11.7	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.9	12.8	13.1	12.8 1/	13.2	13.1
Aluminum	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.4 1/	8.8	8.8
Fabricated Metals	9.3	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.9 1/	8.9 1/	9.3	9.4 1/	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.2	9.1
Machinery	25.9	25.4	25.3	25.4	25.9	25.6	25.9	25.7	26.1	26.3	26.5	26.4	26.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	15.1	14.8	14.8	14.9	15.2 1/	14.7 1/	15.0 1/	14.9 1/	15.3	15.5	15.6	15.5	15.0
Electrical Equipment	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.9	11.0
Transportation Equipment	79.6	86.9	85.1	83.8	82.7	80.8	79.5	77.9	73.2	73.3	76.8	77.6	77.8
Aerospace	64.4	70.3	68.8	67.3	66.2	65.0	63.7	62.7	61.8	61.5	61.6	61.8	61.9
Other Transportation Equip.	15.2	16.6	16.3	16.5	16.5	15.8 1/	15.8	15.2	11.4 1/	11.8 1/	15.2	15.8	15.9
Instruments & Related Prod.	9.4	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.2	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.7
Misc. Manufacturing Indus.	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1
Nondurable Goods	85.7	81.0	80.4	81.6	83.4	84.7	87.4	86.7	89.8	91.6	90.5	86.6	84.7
Food & Kindred Products	31.5	28.1	27.8	28.6	30.0	30.9	33.0	32.0	34.6	36.4	35.1	31.4	29.5
Canned & Preserved Foods	11.3	8.9	8.5	8.4	9.9	10.4	12.5	11.7	14.3	15.7	14.5	11.2	9.0
Apparel & Allied Products	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.9
Paper & Allied Products	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.8	16.1	16.0	16.0	16.0	15.7	15.8
Printing & Publishing	16.0	15.7	15.7	15.9	16.0	16.1	15.9	15.7	15.9	15.9	16.3	16.3	16.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.1	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.3	10.4
Other Nondurable Goods	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Nonmanufacturing	1,302.5	1,254.1	1,258.1	1,272.0	1,293.1	1,304.8	1,330.7	1,306.1	1,302.2	1,329.7	1,329.9	1,327.0	1,327.7
Mining & Quarrying	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Construction	71.7	64.9	65.0	66.7	69.6	72.3	75.5	76.4 1/	78.1	78.1	75.0	70.9	68.2
Transp., Comm., & Utilities	87.6	84.6	84.7	85.1	87.1	87.7	89.5	89.9	85.0 1/	90.7 1/	89.5	89.1 1/	88.8 1/
Trade	394.3	375.0	372.6	376.7	385.0	390.3	399.3	400.0	402.5 1/	406.8	404.7 1/	406.4 1/	412.4
Wholesale Trade	100.7	94.2	94.9	96.4	98.4	98.8	102.2	102.9	103.6	106.0	104.3	103.3	103.1
Retail Trade	293.6	280.8	277.7	280.3	286.6	291.5	297.1	297.1	298.9 1/	300.8	300.4 1/	303.1 1/	309.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	92.2	89.2	89.6	90.2	91.6	92.1	93.1	93.6	93.9	93.5	93.2	93.0	92.9
Services & Miscellaneous	326.6	314.6	317.1	321.4	325.8	326.9	331.4	330.5	331.8	335.0	329.8	328.2	327.1
Government	327.3	323.4	326.7	329.4	331.4	332.8	339.2	312.9	308.1	322.7 1/	334.8	336.5	335.4
Workers in Labor Management Disputes	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.9	9.5	5.1	0.8	1.1	0.3

1/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.
2/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

** PLEASE REPLACE THE TABLE ON PAGE 14 OF THE FEBRUARY REPORT WITH THIS TABLE. SEPTEMBER 1983 TOTAL EMPLOYMENT WAS INCORRECTLY REPORTED ***

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State, 1970-1983 1/
(In Thousands)

	Annual Average 2/	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1983													
Civilian Labor Force	2,062.0	2,001.4	2,009.3	2,039.4	2,056.5	2,069.5	2,136.6	2,086.8	2,075.6	2,083.8	2,080.2	2,057.1	2,047.7
Total employment*	1,832.0	1,725.0	1,739.7	1,774.6	1,814.7	1,835.4	1,906.1	1,864.9	1,866.5	1,890.2	1,882.5	1,847.7	1,836.7
Total unemployment*	230.0	276.4	269.6	264.8	241.8	234.1	230.5	221.9	209.1	193.6	197.7	209.4	211.0
Percent of Labor Force	11.2	13.8	13.4	13.0	11.8	11.3	10.8	10.6	10.1	9.3	9.5	10.2	10.3
1982													
Civilian Labor Force	2,024.0	1,971.9	1,983.2	2,004.8	2,018.1	2,040.8	2,067.0	2,036.7	2,029.9	2,043.4	2,040.9	2,022.8	2,028.4
Total employment*	1,779.0	1,726.1	1,735.1	1,762.1	1,778.2	1,797.2	1,824.3	1,792.9	1,789.7	1,812.6	1,799.5	1,767.4	1,762.9
Total unemployment*	245.0	245.8	248.1	242.7	239.9	243.6	242.7	243.8	240.2	230.8	241.4	255.4	265.5
Percent of Labor Force	12.1	12.5	12.5	12.1	11.9	11.9	11.7	12.0	11.8	11.3	11.8	12.6	13.1
1981													
Civilian Labor Force	1,997.0	1,968.0	1,975.6	1,987.9	1,996.1	2,007.4	2,043.7	2,012.8	2,002.9	2,010.9	1,999.4	1,972.4	1,986.9
Total employment*	1,807.0	1,779.1	1,783.7	1,799.9	1,814.4	1,831.1	1,858.4	1,827.8	1,819.4	1,835.2	1,811.3	1,766.6	1,757.0
Total unemployment*	190.0	188.9	191.9	188.0	181.7	176.3	185.3	185.0	183.5	175.7	188.1	205.8	229.9
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.2	8.7	9.4	10.4	11.6
1980													
Civilian Labor Force	1,986.0	1,939.2	1,947.1	1,968.8	1,983.7	2,000.3	2,035.4	1,997.8	1,983.1	1,999.5	2,000.3	1,984.2	1,992.6
Total employment*	1,829.0	1,771.4	1,795.4	1,821.9	1,832.6	1,851.3	1,871.4	1,836.0	1,833.3	1,851.1	1,845.9	1,821.3	1,816.4
Total unemployment*	157.0	167.8	151.7	146.9	151.1	149.0	164.0	161.8	149.8	148.4	154.4	162.9	176.2
Percent of Labor Force	7.9	8.7	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.4	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.4	7.7	8.2	8.8
1979													
Civilian Labor Force	1,937.0	1,842.0	1,855.9	1,887.7	1,911.2	1,945.1	2,006.6	1,974.1	1,966.3	1,993.0	1,972.8	1,939.2	1,950.0
Total employment*	1,806.0	1,690.0	1,713.5	1,753.4	1,783.3	1,824.7	1,876.8	1,844.6	1,846.7	1,876.1	1,851.4	1,810.6	1,800.8
Total unemployment*	131.0	152.0	142.4	134.3	127.9	120.4	129.8	129.5	119.6	116.9	121.4	128.6	149.2
Percent of Labor Force	6.8	8.3	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.6	7.7
1978													
Civilian Labor Force	1,809.0	1,708.5	1,724.3	1,758.7	1,780.2	1,815.7	1,864.1	1,832.9	1,830.9	1,847.6	1,846.6	1,840.8	1,857.8
Total employment*	1,685.0	1,557.3	1,583.0	1,625.2	1,656.5	1,696.0	1,739.1	1,716.4	1,717.0	1,737.8	1,740.2	1,723.1	1,728.4
Total unemployment*	124.0	151.2	141.3	133.5	123.7	119.7	125.0	116.5	113.9	109.8	106.4	117.7	129.4
Percent of Labor Force	6.9	8.8	8.2	7.6	6.9	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.8	6.4	7.0
1977													
Civilian Labor Force	1,692.0	1,607.3	1,625.2	1,647.3	1,666.7	1,686.9	1,733.7	1,724.9	1,728.8	1,731.3	1,730.7	1,707.1	1,713.8
Total employment*	1,544.0	1,446.3	1,457.9	1,481.3	1,511.9	1,536.4	1,581.5	1,570.5	1,580.8	1,598.8	1,603.4	1,577.2	1,581.8
Total unemployment*	148.0	161.0	167.3	166.0	154.8	150.5	152.2	154.4	148.0	132.5	127.3	129.9	132.0
Percent of Labor Force	8.7	10.0	10.3	10.1	9.3	8.9	8.8	9.0	8.5	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.7

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State, 1970-1983 1/
(In Thousands)

	Annual Average 2/	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1976													
Civilian Labor Force	1,622.0	1,556.5	1,560.4	1,585.2	1,598.3	1,627.9	1,666.7	1,658.5	1,649.7	1,653.8	1,653.0	1,629.7	1,624.5
Total employment*	1,482.0	1,396.0	1,407.5	1,432.7	1,456.3	1,496.6	1,530.3	1,519.3	1,515.9	1,525.3	1,527.1	1,494.4	1,482.6
Total unemployment*	140.0	160.5	152.9	152.5	142.0	131.3	136.4	139.2	133.8	128.5	125.9	135.3	141.9
Percent of Labor Force	8.6	10.3	9.8	9.6	8.9	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.1	7.8	7.6	8.3	8.7
1975													
Civilian Labor Force	1,562.0	1,481.7	1,505.4	1,532.5	1,542.1	1,572.6	1,623.1	1,642.2	1,595.9	1,594.9	1,569.9	1,564.4	1,559.1
Total employment*	1,413.0	1,356.1	1,356.1	1,379.3	1,399.1	1,428.9	1,460.8	1,440.3	1,440.3	1,445.0	1,429.3	1,415.1	1,405.6
Total unemployment*	149.0	125.6	149.3	153.2	143.0	143.7	162.3	161.9	155.6	149.9	140.6	149.3	153.5
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	8.5	9.9	10.0	9.3	9.1	10.0	10.1	9.7	9.4	9.0	9.5	9.8
1974													
Civilian Labor Force	1,530.0	1,455.9	1,470.9	1,490.4	1,511.8	1,544.4	1,591.7	1,592.6	1,567.0	1,566.8	1,544.8	1,517.2	1,506.3
Total employment*	1,421.0	1,326.8	1,346.0	1,371.4	1,402.7	1,444.2	1,481.4	1,482.3	1,463.5	1,469.7	1,451.8	1,415.1	1,396.9
Total unemployment*	109.0	129.1	124.9	119.0	109.1	100.2	110.3	110.3	103.5	97.1	93.0	102.1	109.4
Percent of Labor Force	7.1	8.9	8.5	8.0	7.2	6.5	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.2	6.0	6.7	7.3
1973													
Civilian Labor Force	1,485.0	1,407.3	1,424.3	1,451.7	1,464.9	1,490.9	1,548.2	1,525.1	1,516.1	1,521.7	1,498.8	1,485.1	1,485.6
Total employment*	1,368.0	1,271.5	1,297.6	1,329.9	1,354.3	1,385.9	1,428.7	1,405.8	1,400.0	1,410.3	1,391.5	1,371.8	1,368.6
Total unemployment*	117.0	135.8	126.7	121.8	110.6	105.0	119.5	119.3	116.1	111.4	107.3	113.3	117.0
Percent of Labor Force	7.9	9.6	8.9	8.4	7.6	7.0	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.9
1972													
Civilian Labor Force	1,435.0	1,372.6	1,394.9	1,402.7	1,420.9	1,446.2	1,499.7	1,477.3	1,467.6	1,447.2	1,431.0	1,426.6	1,433.6
Total employment*	1,298.0	1,217.8	1,228.8	1,258.4	1,280.5	1,314.5	1,353.1	1,335.5	1,337.8	1,326.2	1,316.5	1,308.2	1,298.9
Total unemployment*	137.0	154.8	166.1	144.3	140.4	131.7	146.6	141.8	129.8	121.0	114.5	118.4	134.7
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	11.3	11.9	10.3	9.9	9.1	9.8	9.6	8.8	8.4	8.0	8.3	9.4
1971													
Civilian Labor Force	1,402.0	1,358.9	1,371.8	1,372.6	1,389.0	1,399.3	1,463.7	1,441.2	1,432.5	1,422.2	1,399.0	1,383.8	1,390.0
Total employment*	1,260.0	1,198.6	1,213.1	1,223.0	1,246.7	1,266.2	1,313.0	1,291.4	1,294.7	1,291.4	1,272.4	1,254.0	1,255.5
Total unemployment*	142.0	160.3	158.7	149.6	142.3	133.1	150.7	149.8	137.8	130.8	126.6	129.8	134.5
Percent of Labor Force	10.1	11.8	11.6	10.9	10.2	9.5	10.3	10.4	9.6	9.2	9.0	9.4	9.7

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State, 1970-1983 1/
(In Thousands)

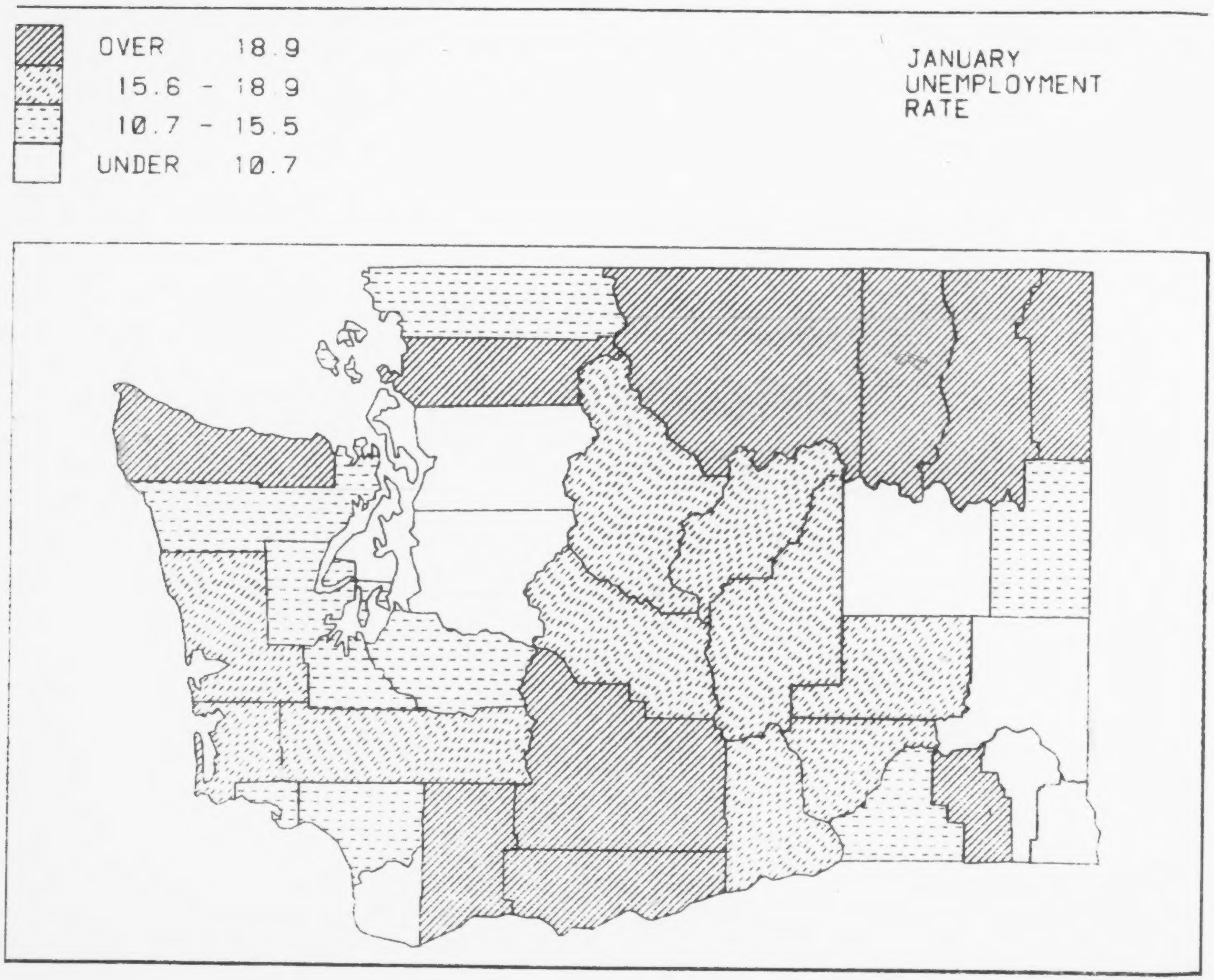
	Annual Average 2/	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1970													
Civilian Labor Force	1,416.0	1,377.9	1,389.0	1,403.3	1,392.7	1,415.5	1,471.2	1,455.2	1,446.0	1,443.7	1,409.6	1,395.4	1,392.4
Total employment*	1,286.0	1,271.9	1,271.3	1,281.4	1,284.6	1,301.2	1,332.9	1,313.0	1,305.4	1,305.5	1,273.8	1,250.5	1,240.4
Total unemployment*	130.0	106.0	117.7	121.9	108.1	114.3	138.3	142.2	140.6	138.2	135.8	144.9	152.0
Percent of Labor Force	9.2	7.7	8.5	8.7	7.8	8.1	9.4	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	10.4	10.9

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration.

2/ Average annual data are from the Current Population Survey. Detail may not add due to rounding.

* Official CPS benchmark estimates

State of Washington
Employment Security Department
Research and Analysis Branch
Olympia, Washington



JANUARY
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE

▨ OVER 18.9
▨ 15.6 - 18.9
▤ 10.7 - 15.5
☐ UNDER 10.7

5/10/84 S8340-3 A

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 3 March 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

Washington State's employment picture brightened during February. The number of jobless individuals dropped 7,800 between January and February, while the number of employed persons increased by 8,800 over the previous month. The state's unemployment rate for February fell 0.4 of a percentage point, from a revised rate of 11.7 percent in January to 11.3 percent in February. (These data are not seasonally adjusted). Improved labor conditions in Washington State were due mainly to seasonal factors and to a healthier national economy. State labor market areas showing the largest February drop in unemployment were Yakima and Wenatchee, where improving weather conditions enabled outdoor work to resume in logging and agriculture.

Nationally, the economy appears to be moving into a genuine phase of expansion after nearly a full year of recovery. The Commerce Department's composite index of leading indicators

	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984*	Feb. 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,039,800	2,038,900	2,009,300
Employment	1,809,200	1,800,500	1,739,700
Unemployment	230,600	238,400	269,600
State Rate	11.3	11.7	13.4
National Civilian Rate	8.4	8.8	10.4

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes. Data are not seasonally adjusted.

advanced a brisk 0.7 percent in February following a healthy January gain. Preliminary estimates of Gross National Product (GNP) for the first quarter of 1984 were placed at 7.2 percent, more than one percentage point above the most optimistic projections. These measures of aggregate economic activity, which had showed signs of a slowdown during the previous quarter, now point to vigorous and continued expansion through the remainder of 1984. Nationally, the jobless rate fell for the sixth straight month, from 8.8 percent in January to 8.4 percent in February. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.)

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

General expansion of the nation's economy contributed to February and to over-the-year improvements in the state's manufacturing employment. Continued first quarter strength in consumer spending for housing and autos, and acceleration of business spending on new plants and equipment, are the prime contributors.

Durable Good Industries

The largest employment gains occurred in lumber and wood products, primary metals, machinery, and stone, clay and glass products. (See chart on page 7.) All of these industries have sizeable markets in either housing or autos; and all benefit from increased business spending on capital goods. Nationally, parallel gains in employment were reported in durable goods manufacturing.

Employment gains in housing-related manufacturing across the state, however, have lagged behind the brisk pace of national recovery. This is due to a relatively depressed housing market in the Pacific Northwest caused, in part, by a slowdown in regional population growth. Nationally, the number of new housing units authorized in February climbed 6.8 percent with every region except the West showing sizeable gains. The sluggish demand for Northwest housing is also reflected in declining prices. In a recent survey of 100 cities by National Relocation Services (a division of Sears-Roebuck), Portland and Anchorage were two of only 12 cities showing declines in the price of housing from July 1983 to January 1984. Housing starts nationally advanced a strong 11.2 percent in February to an annual rate of 2.2 million units, with multi-family construction leading the way. The heaviest construction of multifamily units, however, is in the sunbelt cities where population gains have led the nation.

The slower rate of employment recovery in the state's housing related industries is due also to the historically large export market for Northwest durable goods. The high price of American goods abroad continues to harm all domestic industries with sizeable foreign markets. In an initiative to open new foreign markets for Northwest timber products, the Federal Government has provided a $100,000 grant (with an equal amount to be donated by the industry) for an international conference to demonstrate the benefits of wood housing to Latin America.

Because of "declining demand for Pacific Northwest lumber", the Seaboard Lumber Company, Seattle's last operating sawmill, announced that its manufacturing facility would close before April 30th. The decision will affect 120 millworkers and office staff. Seaboard, like other lumber companies, was faced with contracts to cut timber at prices higher than current and foreseeable sale prices. The contracts were negotiated before the dramatic drop in timber prices at the onset of the recession.

In other state manufacturing, aerospace posted an employment gain of 500 during February reflecting modest, but steady, hiring by the Boeing Company. Late last year Boeing forecast a jump of 3,000 in its payrolls during 1984. In a development with long-range implications for the stability of the state's aerospace industry, Boeing announced an agreement with three Japanese companies to explore the joint development, manufacture, and marketing of a medium size and medium range jet airliner. The venture would help Boeing meet increasing competition from Airbus Industries, the British-European commercial airline consortium. The agreement with Japan is expected to give Boeing jetliners an advantage in the expanding Asian airline market.

Non aerospace transportation posted a small February employment gain. Shipbuilding reported over 400 layoffs attributed to recurrent fluctuations in the boat manufacturing process. According to news reports, an additional loss of 400 jobs in shipbuilding was avoided when Tacoma Boatbuilding Company cut-back to a 32 hour work week and took other cost-cutting measures to offset reported cash-flow problems.

Non Durable Goods Industries

Large gains in state manufacturing employment during February were also reported in the food products industry, with a payroll jump of 900 over January. Most of the gain resulted from increased hiring at potato processing plants. This time of year, trimming of "bruised" potatoes is required to ensure the useability of the potato crop harvested and stored during the previous fall.

In a development which has positive implications for future employment in the state's food processing industry, Tree Top Inc. of Selah, Washington, announced a major new national marketing campaign. Already the nation's largest apple juice producer, Tree Top will take aim at the "100 percent fruit juice" market currently dominated by Hi-C and Hawaiian Punch. An expected surplus of apples in the mid-1980's will also encourage Tree Top to develop export markets, particularly in low-cost juice concentrates.

NON MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Key indicator and survey data for February, suggest that the hectic pace of consumer spending, which has thus far fueled the national economic recovery, may be slowing down. Seasonally adjusted retail sales edged down 0.2 of a percentage point nationally in February, after strong gains of 3.3 percent and 0.7 percent in December and January. (The latter figures are revised from earlier estimates which had showed much smaller gains.) Indications that consumer optimism may have peaked was evident from the Conference Board's index of consumer confidence, which slipped to 95.4 in February from 98.4 the previous month. These changes are due in part to a post-holiday shift in consumer activity and outlook, and to a normal spending slowdown during this advanced stage of the national recovery cycle.

Still, consumer spending remains very strong, and well above prior year levels. Although retail trade employment dropped by 3,700 statewide from January to February, payrolls were more than 16,000 above February 1983. (See chart on page 7.) The February decline was comprised, mainly, of layoffs due to completion of January inventory work and conclusion of special post-holiday retail sales campaigns. The state recovery in retail trade employment has generally kept pace with national gains over the past year; both have increased by six percent.

Significant gains in state non-manufacturing employment during February occurred in construction, wholesale trade, services, and government. (See chart on page 7.) Increases in service employment were concentrated in firms preparing income tax returns and in amusement and recreation establishments. The latter was boosted by the reopening of Yakima Meadows racetrack. The jump in government employment was also normal for this time of year, with the heaviest gains occurring in education. After December-January layoffs related to the winter vacation period, education employment normally rises in February.

The gain in construction activities is also normal for this time of year, as improved weather conditions permit outdoor work to resume. Still, construction employment in Washington State shows a slight decline from one year ago. The recovery in construction, which lags both national industry trends and the general state recovery, is due to a relatively weak housing market in the Pacific Northwest and to a halt in nuclear plant construction. The latter had employed more than 3,500 individuals one year ago.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

The surge in February indicators of national aggregate economic activity points to expansion through 1984, with consolidation of employment gains, and the prospect of further improvement. Although consumer spending may be slowing from the record advances of the past year, low business inventories and a pick-up in business spending are expected to fuel steady growth in the months ahead. The most recent Commerce Department survey of business spending plans showed an increase of 13.6 percent in the dollar value of planned investments. The previous survey predicted a 9.9 percent increase. If the current national expansion followed normal patterns, it would persist through mid-1986. The average length of post World War II expansions is 45 months.

Concerns about large Federal budget deficits and fears that the economy may be expanding too rapidly, cast the only dark shadows on a generally bright economic picture. Continued growth in Gross National Product in the 6 to 7 percent range could create inflationary pressures and a return to higher interest rates. Although inflation actually slowed in February, several signs point to a possible acceleration in mid or late 1984. In a survey of 250 industrial companies by the National Association of Purchasing Managers, 43 percent of buyers reported higher prices for basic industrial materials. This is the largest number since July, 1981. Increases in the price of commodities, such as aluminum, steel, and copper, usually foreshadow a rise in the consumer price index.

In response to growing credit demands, major national banks raised their prime lending rate from 11.0 percent to 11.5 percent. Locally, Sea First, Rainier, and First Interstate Bank of Washington also raised their lending rates. In a related development, the Veteran's Administration announced an increase in its interest rate ceiling on home loans from 12.5 percent to 13 percent. According to spokespersons from the National Mortgage Bankers Association, significant declines should not occur in home buying unless interest rates reach the 14 to 15 percent range. Indeed, inflation and the expectation of higher interest rates have in the past swelled consumer spending for brief periods. Housing, autos, and major appliances have been the main beneficiaries of "anticipatory buying". Spending in advance of expected price increases, is already being cited as a prime reason for the boom in housing and auto sales. The fate of Washington State's labor force, employed heavily by interest rate sensitive industries, is tied closely to fluctuations in the prime rate and to Federal monetary policy.

Economists who doubt that inflation psychology is again taking hold, point to the February moderation in national consumer and producer prices, following a January surge that had caused much concern. Consumer prices in the Seattle-Everett area have risen even more slowly than the national rate over the past quarter.

The value of the American dollar abroad is also being closely watched. A precipitous decline in the dollar, triggering increased demand for domestic goods, would likely fuel inflation. Although the dollar's value against ten major currencies fell by 2.5 percent last month, it remains nearly 10 percent higher than the year ago value. The recent gain in the value of the Japanese yen against the dollar is a positive sign for Washington State industries with sizeable Japanese markets.

Even if inflation and interest rates move higher in the second half of 1984, the quickened pace of capital spending and continued strength in home and auto sales should yield steady gains in employment for the Washington State labor force through 1984. Milder weather conditions in the immediate months ahead will aid agriculture and housing-related industries. "Anticipatory buying" by consumers may add to the normal seasonal pick-up in construction, and lumber and wood products.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/
(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb. 1984 (Prel.)	Jan. 1984 (Rev.)	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983	Jan.84 to Feb.84	Feb.83 to Feb.84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	1,585.6	1,578.8	1,528.6	1,526.0	+6.8	+57.0
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	275.6	272.4	270.5	271.9	+3.2	+5.1
Durable Goods	191.1	188.8	190.1	190.9	+2.3	+1.0
Lumber & Wood Products	39.9	39.1	38.0	36.6	+0.8	+1.9
Furniture & Fixtures	3.3	3.4	2.9	2.9	-0.1	+0.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.4	+0.2	+0.5
Primary Metal Industries	13.4	13.2	11.7	11.8	+0.2	+1.7
Aluminum Prod. & Processing	9.0	8.9	7.5	7.5	+0.1	+1.5
Fabricated Metal Products	9.3	9.2	8.8	9.0	+0.1	+0.5
Machinery	26.5	26.0	25.3	25.4	+0.5	+1.2
Machinery (Exc. Elect.)	15.6	15.1	14.8	14.8	+0.5	+0.8
Electrical Equipment	10.9	10.9	10.5	10.6	0.0	+0.4
Transportation Equipment	78.9	78.3	85.1	86.9	+0.6	-6.2
Aerospace	62.6	62.1	68.8	70.3	+0.5	-6.2
Other Transp. Equipment	16.3	16.2	16.3	16.6	+0.1	0.0
Instruments & Related Prod	9.6	9.7	9.0	9.0	-0.1	+0.6
Misc. Manufacturing Ind.	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.9	+0.1	+0.4
Nondurable Goods	84.5	83.6	80.4	81.0	+0.9	+4.1
Food & Kindred Products	29.3	28.4	27.8	28.1	+0.9	+1.5
Canned & Preserved Foods	9.5	8.7	8.5	8.9	+0.8	+1.0
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.5	0.0	+0.3
Paper & Allied Products	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.8	-0.1	+0.2
Printing & Publishing	16.2	16.2	15.7	15.7	0.0	+0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.4	10.4	9.6	9.6	0.0	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 2/	7.1	7.0	6.3	6.3	+0.1	+0.8
MINING & QUARRYING	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.4	0.0	+0.4
CONSTRUCTION	64.8	64.4	65.0	64.9	+0.4	-0.2
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	89.0	88.9	84.7	84.6	+0.1	+4.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	395.1	398.4	372.6	375.0	-3.3	+22.5
Wholesale Trade	101.0	100.6	94.9	94.2	+0.4	+6.1
Retail Trade	294.1	297.8	277.7	280.8	-3.7	+16.4
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	92.2	92.3	89.6	89.2	-0.1	+2.6
SERVICES	328.2	325.6	317.1	314.6	+2.6	+11.1
GOVERNMENT	337.9	334.0	326.7	323.4	+3.9	+11.2
Federal	66.6	66.7	65.7	65.9	-0.1	+0.9
State & Local	271.3	267.3	261.0	257.5	+4.0	+10.3
Education	149.9	148.3	144.5	141.0	+1.6	+5.4
(WORKERS IN LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private households employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date: March 30, 1984

Benchmark: 1983

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	February 1984 Preliminary 3/				January 1984 Revised				February 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,039,800	1,809,200	230,600	11.3	2,038,800	1,800,400	238,400	11.7	2,009,300	1,739,700	269,600	13.4
Bellingham SMSA	51,600	45,000	6,600	12.8	51,800	44,800	7,000	13.5	50,400	42,700	7,700	15.3
Bremerton SMSA	64,100	58,900	5,200	8.1	64,600	59,400	5,200	8.0	62,900	57,300	5,600	8.9
Olympia SMSA	58,200	51,600	6,600	11.3	58,000	51,300	6,700	11.6	57,700	50,200	7,500	13.0
Seattle-Everett SMSA	901,400	819,200	82,200	9.1	901,700	819,400	82,300	9.1	881,800	784,200	97,600	11.1
Spokane SMSA	155,500	140,100	15,400	9.9	153,500	137,900	15,600	10.2	151,900	132,100	19,800	13.0
Tacoma SMSA	189,900	167,400	22,500	11.8	189,700	167,100	22,600	11.9	188,600	161,900	26,700	14.2
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,200	62,900	11,300	15.2	74,700	62,800	11,900	15.9	77,300	65,000	12,300	15.9
Yakima SMSA	86,400	69,500	16,900	19.6	85,700	67,700	18,000	21.0	85,800	68,200	17,600	20.5
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,740	32,000	5,740	15.2	37,580	31,210	6,370	17.0	37,130	30,290	6,840	18.4
Adams	7,260	6,070	1,190	16.4	7,490	6,150	1,340	17.9	6,590	5,640	950	14.4
Asotin	8,060	7,250	810	10.0	8,150	7,300	850	10.4	8,520	7,350	1,170	13.7
Clallam	19,540	16,310	3,230	16.5	19,860	15,910	3,950	19.9	19,430	15,730	3,700	19.0
Clark	93,170	85,080	8,090	8.7	93,560	84,490	9,070	9.7	94,230	82,130	12,100	12.8
Columbia	1,730	1,380	350	20.2	1,720	1,320	400	23.3	1,860	1,330	530	28.5
Cowlitz	33,030	28,140	4,890	14.8	33,500	28,400	5,100	15.2	33,480	27,370	6,110	18.2
Ferry	2,630	2,130	500	19.0	2,530	2,070	460	18.2	2,470	1,940	530	21.5
Garfield	1,220	1,090	130	10.7	1,210	1,090	120	9.9	1,070	950	120	11.2
Grant	23,580	19,810	3,770	16.0	23,300	18,890	4,410	18.9	21,720	17,840	3,880	17.9
Grays Harbor	28,430	24,010	4,420	15.5	28,510	23,680	4,830	16.9	31,840	26,520	5,320	16.7
Island	15,170	13,600	1,570	10.3	15,160	13,600	1,560	10.3	14,290	12,780	1,510	10.6
Jefferson	6,540	5,730	810	12.4	6,480	5,630	850	13.1	6,310	5,410	900	14.3
Kittitas	11,340	9,410	1,930	17.0	11,250	9,320	1,930	17.2	10,810	8,890	1,920	17.8
Klickitat	7,220	5,570	1,650	22.9	7,250	5,590	1,660	22.9	7,070	5,030	2,040	28.9
Lewis	24,260	20,370	3,890	16.0	24,400	20,220	4,180	17.1	23,580	19,170	4,410	18.7
Lincoln	4,220	3,980	240	5.7	4,170	3,880	290	7.0	3,860	3,540	320	8.3
Mason	10,480	9,170	1,310	12.5	10,630	9,130	1,500	14.1	10,590	8,860	1,730	16.3
Okanogan	15,710	12,280	3,430	21.8	15,520	12,140	3,380	21.8	15,370	11,860	3,510	22.8
Pacific	7,220	5,930	1,290	17.9	7,160	5,900	1,260	17.6	6,980	5,680	1,300	18.6
Pend Oreille	4,140	3,400	740	17.9	4,080	3,310	770	18.9	3,620	2,500	1,120	30.9
San Juan	3,620	3,240	380	10.5	3,580	3,180	400	11.2	3,280	2,870	410	12.5
Skagit	33,300	27,610	5,690	17.1	33,730	27,160	6,570	19.5	32,390	26,060	6,330	19.5
Skamania	3,060	2,140	920	30.1	3,060	2,070	990	32.4	3,010	2,050	960	31.9
Stevens	11,980	9,560	2,420	20.2	11,590	9,290	2,300	19.8	12,150	9,240	2,910	24.0
Wahkiakum	1,420	1,250	170	12.0	1,390	1,200	190	13.7	1,190	1,050	140	11.8
Walla Walla	25,950	22,400	3,550	13.7	25,830	22,310	3,520	13.6	24,480	21,200	3,280	13.4
Whitman	16,400	15,770	630	3.8	16,280	15,570	710	4.4	15,520	14,730	790	5.1

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

March 30, 1984
Benchmark 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 1984 Preliminary 3/				January 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,059,800	1,816,900	242,900	11.8	2,068,000	1,815,000	253,000	12.2
Bellingham SMSA	52,100	45,100	7,000	13.4	52,500	45,100	7,400	14.1
Bremerton SMSA	64,700	59,200	5,500	8.5	65,400	59,900	5,500	8.4
Olympia SMSA	58,800	51,800	7,000	11.9	58,800	51,700	7,100	12.1
King County	714,700	650,100	64,600	9.0	716,900	652,800	64,100	8.9
Snohomish County	194,600	172,600	22,000	11.3	196,500	173,200	23,300	11.9
Spokane SMSA	156,900	140,700	16,200	10.3	155,600	139,000	16,600	10.7
Tacoma SMSA	191,800	168,100	23,700	12.4	192,400	168,400	24,000	12.5
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,000	63,100	11,900	15.9	76,000	63,300	12,700	16.7
Yakima SMSA	87,600	69,800	17,800	20.3	87,400	68,300	19,100	21.9
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,190	32,140	6,050	15.8	38,220	31,460	6,760	17.7
Adams	7,360	6,100	1,260	17.1	7,620	6,200	1,420	18.6
Asotin	8,140	7,280	860	10.6	8,270	7,360	910	11.0
Clallam	19,780	16,380	3,400	17.2	20,230	16,040	4,190	20.7
Clark	93,970	85,450	8,520	9.1	94,800	85,170	9,630	10.2
Columbia	1,750	1,380	370	21.1	1,760	1,340	420	23.9
Cowlitz	33,410	28,260	5,150	15.4	34,040	28,630	5,410	15.9
Ferry	2,670	2,140	530	19.9	2,580	2,090	490	19.0
Garfield	1,220	1,090	130	10.7	1,230	1,100	130	10.6
Grant	23,860	19,890	3,970	16.6	23,730	19,050	4,680	19.7
Grays Harbor	28,770	24,110	4,660	16.2	29,000	23,870	5,130	17.7
Island	15,310	13,660	1,650	10.8	15,370	13,710	1,660	10.8
Jefferson	6,660	5,750	850	12.9	6,570	5,670	900	13.7
Kittitas	11,480	9,450	2,030	17.7	11,440	9,390	2,050	17.9
Klickitat	7,330	5,590	1,740	23.7	7,400	5,630	1,770	23.9
Lewis	24,560	20,460	4,100	16.7	24,830	20,390	4,440	17.9
Lincoln	4,260	4,000	260	6.1	4,220	3,910	310	7.3
Mason	10,590	9,210	1,380	13.0	10,790	9,200	1,590	14.7
Okanogan	15,950	12,330	3,620	22.7	15,820	12,230	3,590	22.7
Pacific	7,320	5,960	1,360	18.6	7,280	5,950	1,330	18.3
Pend Oreille	4,200	3,420	780	18.6	4,160	3,340	820	19.7
San Juan	3,650	3,250	400	11.0	3,630	3,200	430	11.8
Skagit	33,720	27,730	5,990	17.8	34,350	27,370	6,980	20.3
Skamania	3,120	2,150	970	31.1	3,140	2,090	1,050	33.4
Stevens	12,150	9,600	2,550	21.0	11,800	9,360	2,440	20.7
Wahkiakum	1,430	1,250	180	12.6	1,410	1,210	200	14.2
Walla Walla	26,240	22,500	3,740	14.3	26,230	22,490	3,740	14.3
Whitman	16,500	15,840	660	4.0	16,440	15,690	750	4.6

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

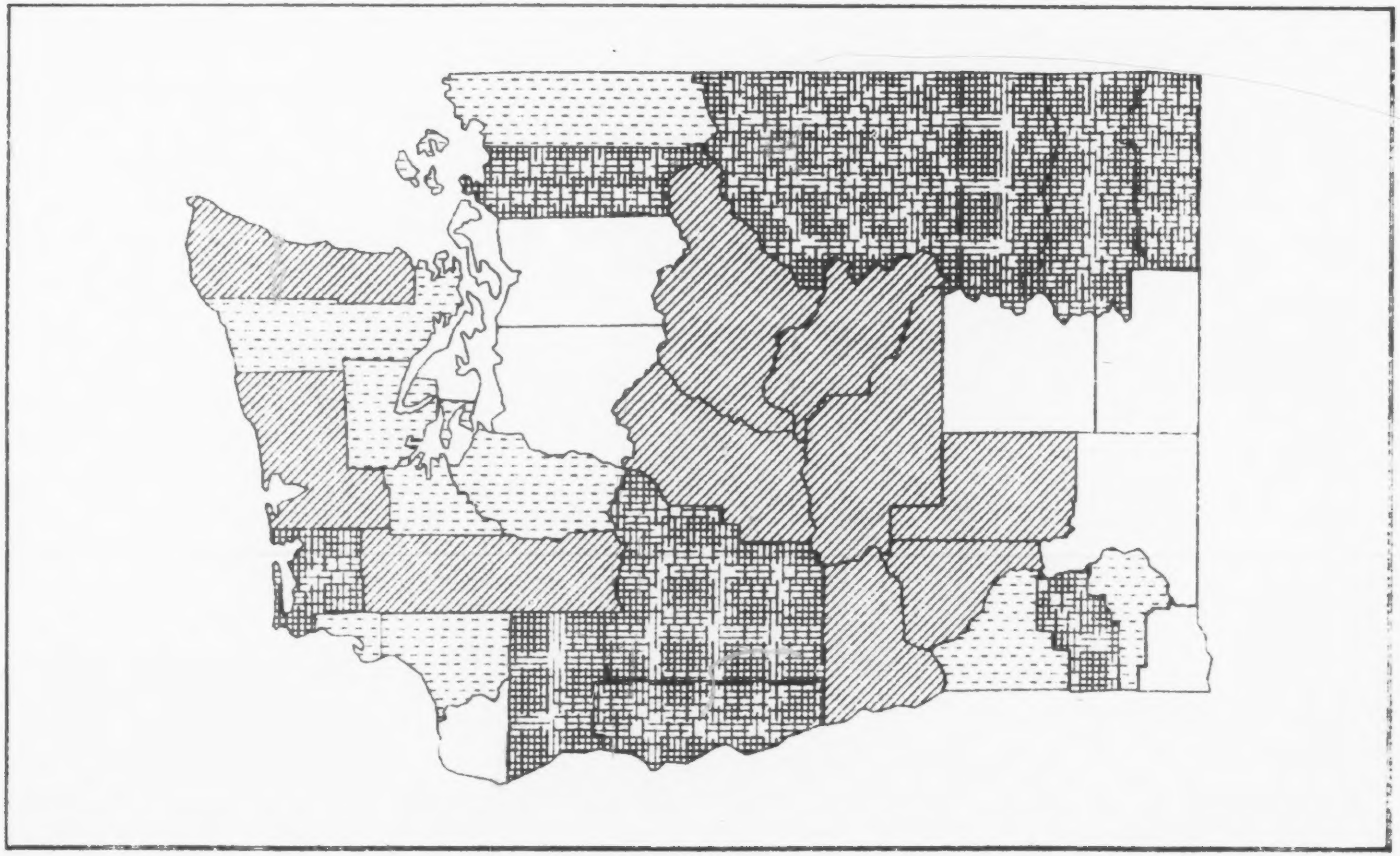
Research and Analysis Branch

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Jan. 1984 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly earnings		
		Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1983	Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1983	Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES....................	173,300	$450.85	$458.99	$440.83	38.9	39.5	38.4	$11.59	$11.62	$11.48
Lumber and wood................................	35,500	417.38	429.37	430.16	37.1	38.2	37.8	11.25	11.24	11.38
Primary metal industries.......................	10,600	534.00	544.38	539.56	40.0	40.9	41.0	13.35	13.31	13.16
Fabricated metal products......................	6,600	462.88	480.78	490.42	38.8	40.3	40.1	11.73	11.93	12.23
Machinery......................................	15,900	402.60	401.58	364.88	40.1	40.4	37.5	10.04	9.94	9.73
Food and Kindred products......................	20,900	374.14	365.77	349.02	38.1	37.4	36.7	9.82	9.78	9.51
Chemicals and allied products..................	5,100	530.04	538.87	493.44	42.0	42.7	41.5	12.62	12.62	11.89
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction...................................	35,700	604.04	610.03	659.09	35.7	35.8	36.8	16.92	17.04	17.91
Wholesale and retail trade.....................	247,600	311.54	315.42	309.17	33.9	35.6	34.2	9.19	8.86	9.04

▦ OVER 17.1
▨ 15.2 - 17.1
▤ 10.5 - 15.1
☐ UNDER 10.5

FEBRUARY
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES



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JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
Research & Analysis Branch
Olympia, WA 98504
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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 4 April 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

The employment picture in Washington State brightened during March, with the jobless rate falling for the second straight month. The State's unemployment rate for March was 10.5 percent; down 0.7 of a percentage point from the revised February rate. The job outlook was bolstered by a Boeing announcement revising a previous hiring forecast from 3,000 to 5,300 additional workers in 1984. The number of jobless individuals dropped 12,400 between February and March. Seasonal factors, including milder weather, usually reduce the March level of unemployment. The drop recorded this March, however, was the largest since 1972, when the state began its rebound from the severe slump of 1970-71. (The data quoted are not seasonally adjusted.) The over-the-year decline in the state's unemployment rate of 2.5 percentage points is the largest since 1977-78, when a boom in housing helped fuel recovery from the milder recession of 1974-75. The number of employed individuals statewide jumped by 23,300 during March, a normal increase for this time of year. A major part of this gain (an increase of 7,300) was in Seattle-Everett, the State's largest and most diverse labor market area. Here, employment continues to benefit from a healthier national economy, buttressed by a normal seasonal upturn in the retail trade and service industries. The Yakima area accounted for another major part of the March increase in state employment, with a gain of more than 3,000 jobs over February. In eastern Washington counties, planting, field preparation, fertilizing, and herbicide application usually boost employment levels during March.

	March 1984*	February 1984*	March 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,052,000	2,041,100	2,039,400
Total State Employment	1,836,100	1,812,800	1,774,600
Total Unemployment	215,900	228,300	264,800
State Unemployment Rate	10.5	11.2	13.0
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.4	10.3

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

Nationally, large month-to-month swings in key indicators paint a mixed picture of current and future economic conditions. Gross National Product (GNP) for the first quarter of 1984 grew at an annual rate of 8.3 percent, more than one percentage point above preliminary estimates and several points above the consensus forecast. Based on 1983 fourth quarter measures and more recent January data, economists had predicted much slower growth during the first quarter of 1984. Key indicators reported in March point once again to a more moderate pace of expansion. The Commerce Department's set of leading economic indicators dropped a sizeable 1.1 percent during March, the first decline in nineteen months. The non-adjusted unemployment rate for the nation fell 0.3 of a percentage point from February, to a March level of 8.1 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate, however, remained unchanged from February after six months of steady decline. On the heels of a sharp March drop in national retail sales, these data point to slower growth through the remainder of 1984. The sudden reversal of key national indicators has been explained as a "correction" to an exceptionally brisk January-February performance. Abnormally harsh weather in most parts of the nation has also been cited as the cause of the March downturn. This news has allayed some fears that an overheated economy, triggering inflation and higher interest rates, would erode the substantial employment gains of the past fifteen months.

Despite a slight upward turn in the state's jobless rate between the fourth quarter of 1983 and the first quarter of 1984, the bright March figures reflect a narrowing gap between state and national employment recoveries. Chart 1 traces state and national jobless rates from the onset of the recession to the present. (Monthly data in this chart have been seasonally adjusted and aggregated into quarters to smooth out volatile monthly swings.)

After more than one year of steady recovery, total nonagricultural employment in Washington State is about 4 percent higher than the pre-recession level. The non-manufacturing sector, with trade and service industries leading the way, has fueled the state's employment recovery. Chart 2 shows the percentage change in state nonagricultural employment by major industrial sectors, from March 1979 to the present. The overall state picture parallels national and international trends in labor market composition.

CHART 1

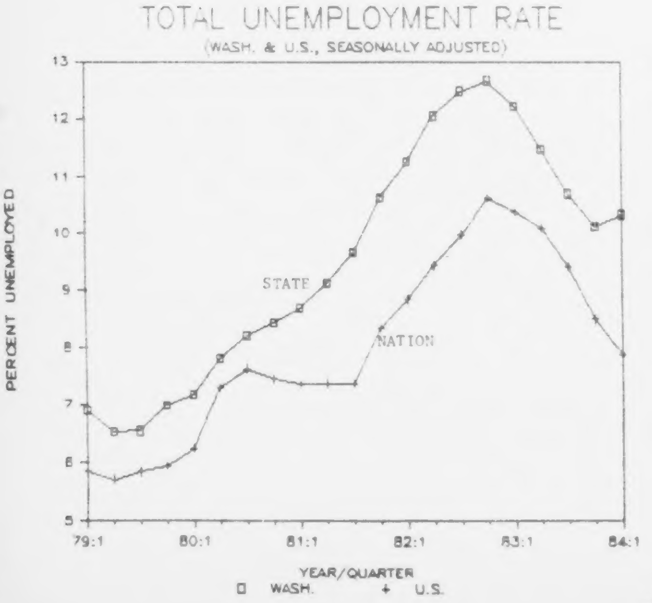
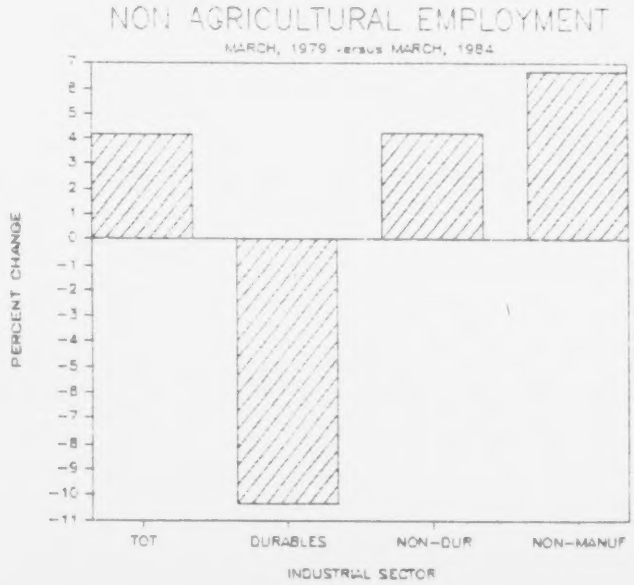


CHART 2



MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

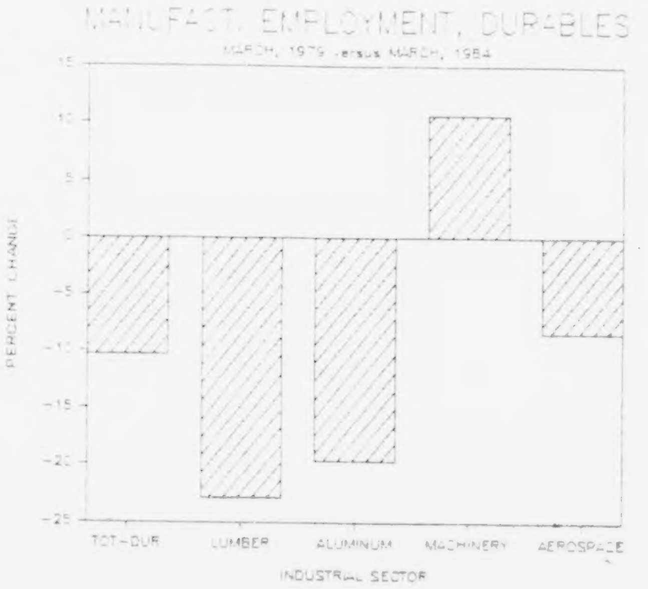
The Boeing Company's revised forecast, adding 2,300 to a previous projection of 3,000 hirees for 1984, brightened an otherwise mixed outlook in manufacturing. The largest part of the March gain in state manufacturing employment was in housing related industries. In preparation for heightened construction activity in the spring and summer months, lumber and wood products, aluminum, and stone, clay and glass all posted higher payrolls for March. Employment in the capital goods sector held steady with some industries showing modest gains. (See table on page 8.) Growth in capital goods employment, especially in machinery, follows an over-the-year national rise in consumer spending and business investment. Feverish January and February activity provided most of the recent impetus. A March slowdown in production prevented a larger gain in manufacturing payrolls. Some of the slower growth in production is due to plants approaching their production capacity. Across the nation, plant use is 81 percent of capacity, with some key industries, such as aluminum, nearing the 100 percent mark. If consumer demand holds steady, renewed investment in plant and equipment should boost employment in capital goods industries later in the year. In the meantime, small declines in the average manufacturing work week and reductions in overtime were reported for the nation during March.

Durable Goods Industries

An increase in home mortgage rates during March, with another rise expected in the near future, helped keep employment gains in lumber and wood products and in other durable goods within seasonal norms. Although the record March drop in national housing starts was influenced by severe weather conditions, the decline may also reflect the waning phase of a year-long housing boom. In the state and region, however, where the recovery in homebuilding has been much slower, the demand for housing should hold steadier in the months ahead.

A look at pre and post recession employment in the state's durable goods sector shows lumber and wood products trailing, as expected. As shown in chart 3, employment in this industry is still more than 20 percent below the March 1979 level. Although hastened by the recession, this erosion reflects a regional trend nearly two decades in the making. Since 1965, yearly production of plywood in the Pacific Northwest has decreased from 12 to 10 billion board feet, while the Southern share of the market has surged from less than 1 to more than 10 billion board feet. Plywood substitutes, such as waferboard and strandboard, manufactured in the mid-west provide still more competition, holding down Northwest timber prices.

CHART 3



Reflecting this trend, Simpson Timber Company in Shelton announced elimination of 129 local jobs, effective March 30th. A company spokesman cited excess lumber capacity in the West and low prices as the reason for the layoffs.

The longer-range employment outlook in lumber and wood products hinges on further development of the region's export markets. The Weyerhauser Company, which has been a leader in this movement, reports an improvement in export markets because of economic recovery overseas and the start of a decline in the U.S. dollar. In another positive development, Anacortes Plywood, Inc., announced the return of between 80 and 100 workers to its veneer plant. In a unique transaction, workers formed a cooperative and bought shares in the closed plant to allow the re-opening. Dividends at the end of the year are expected to supplement salaries and benefits.

The\Aluminum industry has also lagged the state's general employment recovery, with payrolls nearly 20 percent below March 1979. (See chart 3, above.) Here, a jump in the cost of electricity, in addition to a sluggish regional housing recovery, has inhibited recovery. Reductions in electricity rates for aluminum producers announced by Bonneville Power Authority may enable the industry to move closer to pre-recession employment levels in the year ahead.

In other durable goods manufacturing, aerospace added 400 to its payrolls during March. Since December 1983, aerospace employment in the state is up more than 1,300. A recent announcement by Boeing, forecasts an additional 4,000 hirees in the state before the end of 1984. This would bring aerospace employment within 3 percent of its pre-recession level. It is currently 8 percent below March 1979. (See chart 3, above.) The slower, but steady employment advances in aerospace during the present recovery may be more permanent and sustainable than past cyclical upswings. Boeing officials who announced the new hiring forecast, said the revised projection was due to an improved outlook for military and commercial airplane sales, with the new Boeing 737 leading the way. Boeing reported that orders for its smaller 737 model are ahead of expectations, while interest in the wider-body 757 and 767 models is lagging. Since deregulation, airlines have been competing by offering more service. This has increased the demand for smaller, more fuel-efficient jetliners.

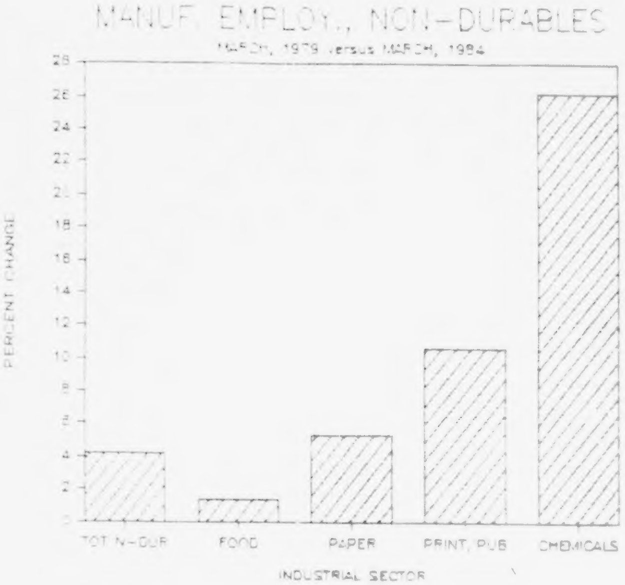
Employment in machinery production, which is tied more closely than other manufacturing to overall economic conditions, continued to gain steadily during March. Machinery is the only major durable goods industry to surpass its pre-recession employment level. Its current workforce is nearly 10 percent higher than in March 1979.

Nondurable Goods Industries

Notable gains were reported for the second straight month in the state's food products industry, with a payroll jump of 800 over February. A major part of the increase was concentrated again in potato processing. "Bruised" potatoes from the fall harvest need to be processed at this time of year to ensure their useability. The hiring of workers to process asparagus shipments from California also boosted food processing payrolls. The processing of food and related products is one of several major state industries to exceed pre-recession employment levels. Payrolls in food processing are nearly 2 percent higher than in March 1979. In general, nondurable goods industries have helped lead the state's employment recovery, compensating for slower growth in hard goods employment. (See chart 4, below.)

Overall, employment in nondurables is 4 percent higher than in March, 1979, with chemicals, printing & publishing, and paper products posting the biggest percentage gains. Employment in paper and allied products has benefitted directly from the year-long revival in consumer spending. Companies requiring more packing cartons for consumer products and users of printing paper for micro-computers have helped the paper industry return to full production. Weyerhaeuser reports that its pulp and paper division has recovered

CHART 4



faster than other parts of the company. Timber companies with diversified operations that include paper products have come closest to pre-recession employment levels.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

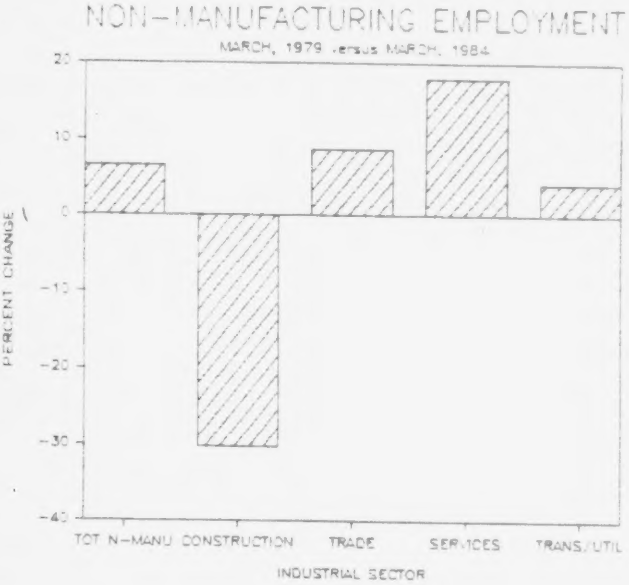
Employment in wholesale and retail trade, the state's largest nonmanufacturing sector, advanced 3,100 in March after post-holiday declines in January and February. The increase reflects a customary spring rebound in consumer spending on clothing, home furnishings, and building materials. Milder weather and increased travel boosts the payrolls of service stations and roadside eating and drinking establishments. (See table on page 8.) Still, the March gain of 3,100 is about 2,000 less than normal for this time of year. The closing of Peoples Stores, resulting in a loss of 1,200 jobs, was responsible for most of the shortfall. A general slowdown in consumer spending may have also kept the March increase in trade employment slightly below the seasonal norm.

For the second straight month, key indicators of national economic activity point to reduced consumer spending. Retail sales nationally dropped 2.2 percent in March, following a decline of 0.2 of a percentage point in February. Although sales were harmed by extremely harsh weather and a "late" Easter holiday, consumer spending was expected to decelerate after the record advances of the past year. The dip in consumer spending is consistent with slower growth in employment and in personal income. The latter showed the smallest gain nationally in seven months, rising only 0.5 percent in March. With more distance to travel in its recovery, Washington State should continue to show strength in consumer spending in succeeding months. The latest figures published by the state Office of Financial Management and the Department of Revenue, show real personal income advancing at annual rates of 0.5 percent and 2.2 percent for the third and fourth quarters of 1983. Another increase, at an annual rate of 2.5 percent, is forecast for the first quarter of 1984, with stronger projected gains for the remainder of the year. This should at least preserve the healthy employment recovery in wholesale and retail trade. A prediction by Marple's Business Newsletter, that "tourism shapes up as a record year" in Washington State, paints an even brighter picture for trade industry employment.

Employment in the state's construction and services industries also jumped during March. Seasonal factors were again at play. Milder weather enabled construction activity to resume, while an approaching tax return deadline boosted payrolls in business and accounting services by 900. (See table on page 8.)

Nonmanufacturing industries have led the employment recovery in Washington State. Current nonmanufacturing employment is nearly 7 percent above the March 1979 level. This has more than balanced a net 6 percent loss in manufacturing jobs over the past four years. (See chart 5 and chart 2.) The recent recession, however, merely accelerated a long-term trend which has dramatically reshaped the state and national labor force. The shift from manufacturing to services employment was prompted by spectacular advances in technology which has made the production process less labor intensive. Standardized production has also enabled less advanced industrial nation's to capture a larger share of the international manufacturing labor market, at the expense of production jobs in the United States.

CHART 5



The one exception to growth in state non-manufacturing employment is construction. The sluggish regional housing recovery and loss of jobs due to a halt in nuclear plant construction are the prime causes. Employment in construction is still 30 percent below the March 1979 level. (See chart 5.)

In a development with positive long-range implications, the Navy announced plans to station a fifteen ship aircraft carrier task force at the Port of Everett. The ships, scheduled to arrive in 1988 (pending formal budgetary authorization) will add 10,000 military personnel and about 1,500 civilian workers to Puget Sound non-manufacturing payrolls. An additional 5,000 permanent jobs are expected to derive from a general boost to the Puget Sound economy. Most of the jobs created indirectly will be in services and trade. Between 1986 and 1989, an average of 2,300 construction related jobs per year will result while the carrier group is being established.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

The March drop in key indicators of national economic activity point to slower economic growth and job creation in the months ahead. While this has caused some alarm, most economists are pleased to see a moderation in the hectic pace of recent expansion. Slower growth is expected to prevent a further rise in interest rates, and keep the cost of housing, autos, and other "big ticket" consumer goods within the reach of middle income earners. Although the price of producer goods continues to advance at rates well above the 1983 pace, consumer prices climbed just 0.2 percent in March. For the first quarter of 1984, consumer prices increased at an annual rate of 5 percent, about the same as the previous three quarters.

The sharp March decline in retail sales has raised concerns that the year-long boom in spending is finally coming to an end. During this period of consumer retrenchment, however, savings nationally have been replenished. If interest rates remain at or near present levels, economists expect a round of renewed consumer activity, though at a rate below the record 1983 surge. Continued strength in consumer spending should, in turn, spur investment in plant and equipment among industries experiencing diminished factory capacity. Many key industries are operating close to 100 percent of capacity. The overall rate is 81 percent.

Slower growth and an easing of inflationary pressures mean that employment gains in the state's interest rate sensitive industries should be preserved in the months ahead, with good prospects for gradual expansion through 1984. Employment in the state's already healthy trade and services sector should also benefit from a pick-up in consumer spending and an expected record year in tourism. Boeing's upward revision of its 1984 hiring forecast means that employment in one of the state's largest and most volatile industries will remain strong through the remainder of 1984.

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Mar. 1984 (Prel.)	Feb. 1984 (Rev.)	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Change Feb. 84 to Mar. 84	Change Mar. 83 to Mar. 84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2,052.0	2,041.1	2,039.4	2,009.3	+10.9	+12.6
EMPLOYMENT..................	1,836.1	1,812.8	1,774.6	1,739.7	+23.3	+61.5
UNEMPLOYMENT................	215.9	228.3	264.8	269.6	-12.4	-48.9
Percent of Labor Force...	10.5	11.2	13.0	13.4	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Mar. 1984 (Prel.)	Feb. 1984 (Rev.)	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Change Feb. 84 to Mar. 84	Change Mar. 83 to Mar. 84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.	1,604.5	1,589.1	1,544.1	1,528.6	+15.4	+60.4
TOTAL MANUFACTURING.........	279.9	276.5	272.1	270.5	+3.4	+7.8
Durable Goods..............	193.5	191.5	190.5	190.1	+2.0	+3.0
Lumber & Wood Products....	41.0	40.0	38.7	38.0	+1.0	+2.3
Furniture & Fixtures......	3.3	3.4	3.0	2.9	-0.1	+0.3
Stone Clay & Glass Prod...	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.4	+0.2	+0.5
Primary Metal Industries..	13.5	13.3	12.0	11.7	+0.2	+1.5
Aluminum Prod.& Proc.....	9.0	8.9	7.6	7.5	+0.1	+1.4
Fabricated Metal Prod.....	9.5	9.4	8.9	8.8	+0.1	+0.6
Machinery.................	26.8	26.6	25.4	25.3	+0.2	+1.4
Machinery exc. Elect.....	15.7	15.6	14.9	14.8	+0.1	+0.8
Electrical & Electronic..	11.1	11.0	10.5	10.5	+0.1	+0.6
Transportation Equipment..	79.2	78.9	83.8	85.1	+0.3	-4.6
Aerospace................	63.0	62.6	67.3	68.8	+0.4	-4.3
Other Transp. Equip......	16.2	16.3	16.5	16.3	-0.1	-0.3
Instruments & Rel. Prod...	9.7	9.7	9.2	9.0	0.0	+0.5
Misc. Manufacturing Ind...	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.9	+0.1	+0.5
Nondurable Goods...........	86.4	85.0	81.6	80.4	+1.4	+4.8
Food & Kindred Products...	30.1	29.3	28.6	27.8	+0.8	+1.5
Canned & Preserved Foods.	9.7	9.5	8.4	8.5	+0.2	+1.3
Apparel & Other Text.Prod.	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.5	0.0	+0.5
Paper & Allied Products...	16.0	15.8	15.4	15.5	+0.2	+0.6
Printing & Publishing.....	16.6	16.3	15.9	15.7	+0.3	+0.7
Chemicals & Allied Prod ..	10.6	10.4	9.8	9.6	+0.2	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.	4/ 7.1	7.2	6.4	6.3	-0.1	+0.7
MINING & QUARRYING..........	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.4	0.0	+0.4
CONSTRUCTION................	67.3	64.9	66.7	65.0	+2.4	+0.6
TRANS.& PUBLIC UTILITIES....	89.7	89.1	85.1	84.7	+0.6	+4.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE....	398.1	395.0	376.7	372.6	+3.1	+21.4
Wholesale Trade............	102.3	101.3	96.4	94.9	+1.0	+5.9
Retail Trade...............	295.8	293.7	280.3	277.7	+2.1	+15.5
FIN. INS. & REAL ESTATE.....	92.6	92.3	90.2	89.6	+0.3	+2.4
SERVICES....................	333.5	329.8	321.4	317.1	+3.7	+12.1
GOVERNMENT..................	340.5	338.6	329.4	326.7	+1.9	+11.1
Federal....................	67.3	67.2	66.8	65.7	+0.1	+0.5
State & Local..............	273.2	271.4	262.6	261.0	+1.8	+10.6
Education.................	151.4	150.5	145.0	144.5	+0.9	+6.4
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES).................	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.2	+0.2

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date: April 30, 1984

Benchmark: 1983

	March 1984 Preliminary 3/				February 1984 Revised				March 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,052,000	1,836,100	215,900	10.5	2,041,100	1,812,800	228,300	11.2	2,039,400	1,774,660	264,800	13.0
Bellingham SMSA	51,900	46,000	5,900	11.4	51,700	45,100	6,600	12.8	50,900	43,600	7,300	14.3
Bremerton SMSA	64,200	59,300	4,900	7.6	64,100	59,000	5,100	8.0	63,600	58,100	5,500	8.6
Olympia SMSA	58,400	52,300	6,100	10.4	58,200	51,600	6,600	11.3	59,400	51,600	7,800	13.1
Seattle-Everett SMSA	906,800	829,500	77,300	8.5	903,400	822,200	81,200	9.0	889,100	791,700	97,400	11.0
Spokane SMSA	154,100	139,700	14,400	9.3	154,800	139,700	15,100	9.8	153,700	134,500	19,200	12.5
Tacoma SMSA	190,500	168,600	21,900	11.5	189,700	167,600	22,100	11.6	190,300	164,400	25,900	13.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,600	63,900	10,700	14.3	74,100	62,900	11,200	15.1	78,700	66,700	12,000	15.2
Yakima SMSA	87,800	72,700	15,100	17.2	86,500	69,600	16,900	19.5	87,300	71,000	16,300	18.7
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,650	31,890	5,760	15.3	37,720	32,000	5,720	15.2	39,080	32,130	6,950	17.8
Adams	7,760	6,660	1,100	14.2	7,240	6,070	1,170	16.2	6,910	6,110	800	11.6
Asotin	8,090	7,280	810	10.0	8,070	7,260	810	10.0	8,560	7,430	1,130	13.2
Clallam	19,550	16,710	2,840	14.5	19,460	16,320	3,140	16.1	19,540	15,970	3,570	18.3
Clark	93,730	85,490	8,240	8.8	93,580	85,010	8,570	9.2	94,310	83,020	11,290	12.0
Columbia	1,940	1,690	250	12.9	1,730	1,380	350	20.2	1,910	1,440	470	24.6
Cowlitz	32,870	28,490	4,380	13.3	33,120	28,330	4,790	14.5	33,660	27,910	5,750	17.1
Ferry	2,740	2,160	580	21.2	2,640	2,130	510	19.3	2,580	1,990	590	22.9
Garfield	1,260	1,130	130	10.3	1,210	1,090	120	9.9	1,170	1,060	110	9.4
Grant	24,060	20,800	3,260	13.5	23,610	19,850	3,760	15.9	23,750	19,700	4,050	17.1
Grays Harbor	28,160	24,070	4,090	14.5	28,430	24,040	4,390	15.4	31,790	26,530	5,260	16.5
Island	15,290	13,900	1,390	9.1	15,060	13,540	1,520	10.1	14,790	13,300	1,490	10.1
Jefferson	6,530	5,820	710	10.9	6,520	5,730	790	12.1	6,460	5,590	870	13.5
Kittitas	11,780	9,850	1,930	16.4	11,530	9,640	1,890	16.4	11,160	9,290	1,870	16.8
Klickitat	7,160	5,780	1,380	19.3	7,170	5,570	1,600	22.3	7,060	5,270	1,790	25.4
Lewis	24,430	20,950	3,540	14.5	24,240	20,390	3,850	15.9	24,920	20,170	4,750	19.1
Lincoln	4,490	4,250	240	5.3	4,230	3,990	240	5.7	4,180	3,910	270	6.5
Mason	10,710	9,540	1,170	10.9	10,480	9,180	1,300	12.4	10,820	9,140	1,680	15.5
Okanogan	15,810	12,370	3,440	21.8	15,690	12,290	3,400	21.7	16,900	13,020	3,880	23.0
Pacific	7,130	6,030	1,100	15.4	7,190	5,940	1,250	17.4	7,220	5,890	1,330	18.4
Pend Oreille	4,220	3,480	740	17.5	4,150	3,410	740	17.8	3,730	2,690	1,040	27.9
San Juan	3,610	3,280	330	9.1	3,540	3,160	380	10.7	3,480	3,060	420	12.1
Skagit	34,850	29,650	5,200	14.9	33,250	27,670	5,580	16.8	33,310	27,390	5,920	17.8
Skamania	2,980	2,330	650	21.8	3,050	2,170	880	28.9	3,060	2,290	770	25.2
Stevens	12,470	9,970	2,500	20.0	11,980	9,570	2,410	20.1	12,940	9,820	3,120	24.1
Wahkiakum	1,390	1,250	140	10.1	1,410	1,240	170	12.1	1,230	1,110	120	9.8
Walla Walla	25,950	22,820	3,130	12.1	25,960	22,420	3,540	13.6	25,270	22,140	3,130	12.4
Whitman	17,030	16,420	610	3.6	16,420	15,790	630	3.8	16,370	15,590	780	4.8

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

April 30, 1984
Benchmark 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 1984 Preliminary 3/				February 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,060,200	1,839,700	220,500	10.7	2,061,000	1,820,200	240,800	11.7
Bellingham SMSA	52,100	46,100	6,000	11.5	52,200	45,200	7,000	13.4
Bremerton SMSA	64,400	59,400	5,000	7.8	64,600	59,200	5,400	8.4
Olympia SMSA	58,600	52,400	6,200	10.6	58,800	51,800	7,000	11.9
King County	715,800	656,800	59,000	8.2	716,600	652,400	64,200	9.0
Snohomish County	194,300	174,400	19,900	10.2	194,600	173,100	21,500	11.0
Spokane SMSA	154,700	140,000	14,700	9.5	156,200	140,300	15,900	10.2
Tacoma SMSA	191,200	168,900	22,300	11.7	191,500	168,200	23,300	12.2
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,900	64,000	10,900	14.6	75,000	63,200	11,800	15.7
Yakima SMSA	88,300	72,800	15,500	17.6	87,700	69,900	17,800	20.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,840	31,950	5,890	15.6	38,170	32,130	6,040	15.8
Adams	7,800	6,670	1,130	14.5	7,320	6,090	1,230	16.8
Asotin	8,120	7,290	830	10.2	8,140	7,290	850	10.4
Clallam	19,640	16,740	2,300	14.8	19,700	16,390	3,310	16.8
Clark	94,080	85,660	8,420	8.9	94,400	85,360	9,040	9.6
Columbia	1,940	1,690	250	12.9	1,760	1,390	370	21.0
Cowlitz	33,020	28,550	4,470	13.5	33,500	28,450	5,050	15.1
Ferry	2,750	2,160	590	21.5	2,680	2,140	540	20.1
Garfield	1,260	1,130	130	10.3	1,220	1,090	130	10.7
Grant	24,180	20,850	3,330	13.8	23,890	19,930	3,960	16.6
Grays Harbor	28,290	24,120	4,170	14.7	28,770	24,140	4,630	16.1
Island	15,350	13,930	1,420	9.3	15,200	13,600	1,600	10.5
Jefferson	6,550	5,830	720	11.0	6,590	5,760	830	12.6
Kittitas	11,840	9,870	1,970	16.6	11,680	9,680	2,000	17.1
Klickitat	7,210	5,800	1,410	19.6	7,280	5,600	1,680	23.1
Lewis	24,600	20,990	3,610	14.7	24,540	20,480	4,060	16.5
Lincoln	4,500	4,260	240	5.3	4,250	4,000	250	5.9
Mason	10,760	9,560	1,200	11.2	10,590	9,220	1,370	12.9
Okanogan	15,910	12,400	3,510	22.1	15,930	12,340	3,590	22.5
Pacific	7,180	6,050	1,130	15.7	7,280	5,960	1,320	18.1
Pend Oreille	4,240	3,490	750	17.7	4,200	3,420	780	18.6
San Juan	3,630	3,290	340	9.4	3,570	3,170	400	11.2
Skagit	35,020	29,710	5,310	15.2	33,680	27,790	5,890	17.5
Skamania	2,990	2,330	660	22.1	3,110	2,180	930	29.9
Stevens	12,550	9,990	2,560	20.4	12,150	9,610	2,540	20.9
Wahkiakum	1,410	1,260	150	10.6	1,420	1,240	180	12.7
Walla Walla	26,060	22,860	3,200	12.3	26,250	22,510	3,740	14.2
Whitman	17,080	16,450	630	3.7	16,510	15,850	660	4.0

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

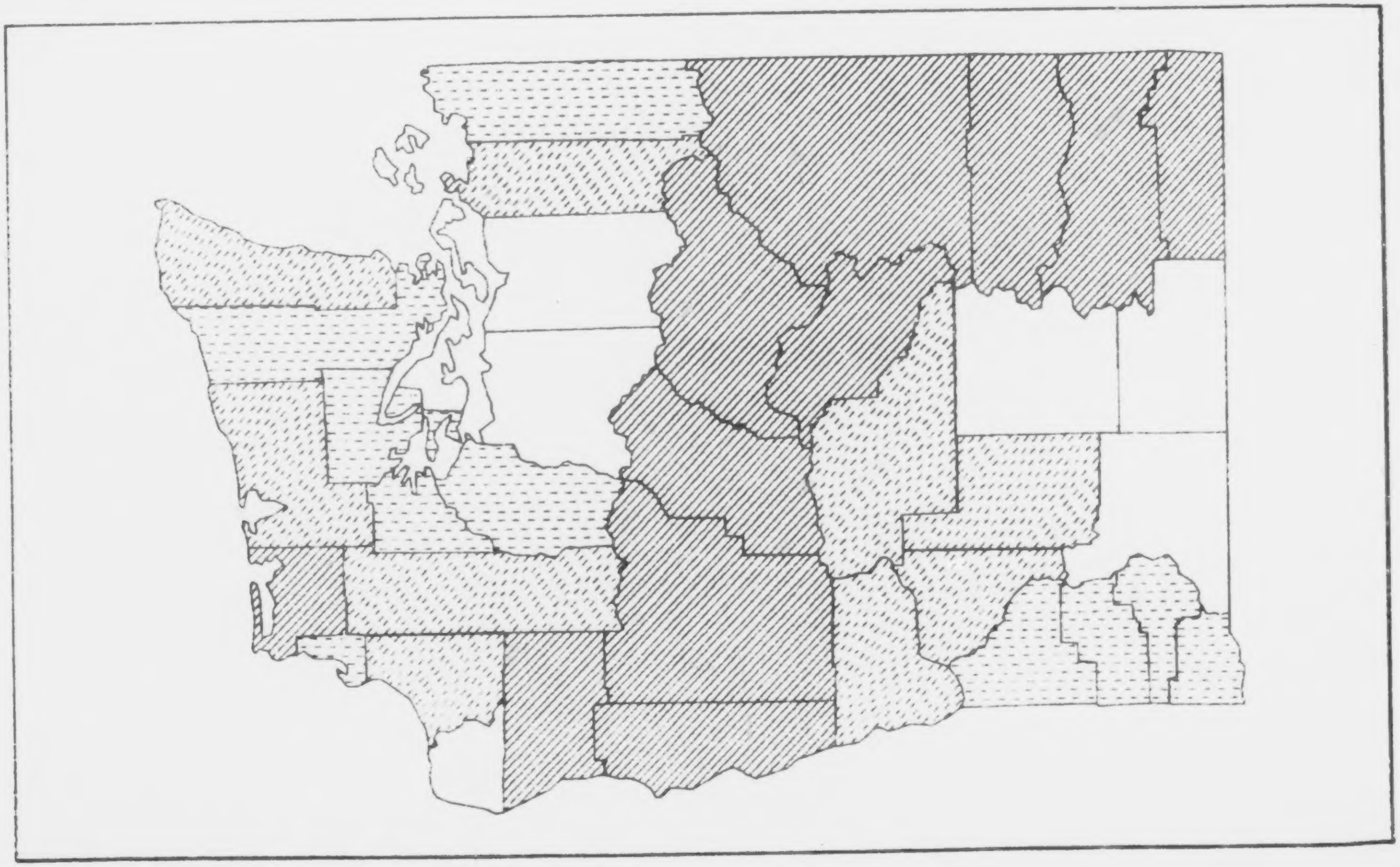
3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Feb. 1984 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
~~TOTAL~~ MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	175,800	$453.18	$448.91	$442.73	39.0	38.9	38.7	$11.62	$11.54	$11.44
Lumber & wood products	36,400	425.24	417.38	438.05	37.9	37.1	38.8	11.22	11.25	11.29
Primary metal industries	10,700	556.28	534.00	528.43	41.7	40.0	40.4	13.34	13.35	13.08
Fabricated metal products	6,900	465.20	455.12	495.32	40.0	38.8	40.6	11.63	11.73	12.20
Machinery	16,600	397.97	402.60	371.11	38.6	40.1	38.9	10.31	10.04	9.54
Food & kindred products	21,700	365.25	374.14	344.76	37.5	38.1	36.1	9.74	9.82	9.55
Chemicals & allied products	5,100	530.04	530.04	513.40	42.1	42.0	42.5	12.59	12.62	12.08
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	46,700	597.91	604.04	636.53	35.4	35.7	35.6	16.89	16.92	17.88
Wholesale and retail trade	244,900	306.28	311.54	308.93	33.4	33.9	33.8	9.17	9.19	9.14

▨ OVER 15.3
▨ 13.3 - 15.3
▤ 10.0 - 13.2
☐ UNDER 10.0

MARCH
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES



7/18/84 S8340-3 A

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
Research & Analysis Branch
Olympia, WA 98504
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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 5 May 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

The state's unemployment rate fell for the third straight month, from a revised figure of 10.4 percent in March to 10.2 percent in April. The number of persons with jobs in Washington State rose by 24,000 in April to 1,860,900, the third consecutive monthly increase in state total employment. (Data are not seasonally adjusted). Both developments reflect improvements in weather, and other seasonal factors, which stimulate activity in agriculture, construction, logging, and retail trade. The drop in the state's jobless rate and the rise in total employment, however, were below normal for this time of year and for this stage of the employment recovery cycle. The rise in April employment of 24,000 is about 6,000 below past March to April increases in non-recession years. The April drop in this year's jobless rate, of 0.2 of a percentage point, compares to a normal drop in non-recession years of about 0.7 of a percentage point. The failure to emulate past April gains is due mainly to a sudden halt in the recovery of the lumber and wood products and construction industries. An increase in home mortgage rates has dampened the housing recovery, contributing to an oversupply of lumber and a precipitous decline in lumber prices. A severe depletion of coho and chinook salmon has also kept the lid on seasonal employment gains. The fish famine has practically eliminated commercial and recreational fishing off the Washington coast for

	April 1984*	March 1984*	April 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,071,600	2,051,100	2,056,500
Total State Employment	1,860,900	1,836,900	1,814,700
Total Unemployment	210,700	214,200	241,800
State Unemployment Rate	10.2	10.4	11.8
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.6	8.1	10.2

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

the season; this in turn, has retarded fish processing payrolls. Ironically, improving economic conditions also contributed to a smaller than expected drop in the April jobless rate. Inspired by a brightening employment picture, more than 20,000 individuals entered (or re-entered) the state's job market during April, the largest March to April gain since 1979 when a vigorous demand for housing bolstered job opportunities in logging and construction. As labor force expansion slows down, the jobless rate should resume its downward trend in the months ahead.

Nationally, key economic indicators continue to show large month to month swings. April gains in total employment, retail sales, and production reverse the March deceleration in aggregate economic activity. The latter had been attributed to harsh weather conditions. The Department of Commerce reports positive movement again in the April index of leading economic indicators, following a sizeable drop during March. Discounting weather and other transient forces, the overall picture since the beginning of 1984 is one of rapid growth, settling, now, into moderate, sustainable expansion. National labor force data reflect this picture. The non-seasonally adjusted jobless rate for the nation was down 0.5 of a percentage point in April, with 7.6 percent of the labor force unemployed. The seasonally adjusted national rate, however, held at 7.8 percent, the same as in February and March.

With recovery boosting the confidence of new job seekers and discouraged workers, the civilian labor force has swelled in recent months. This has kept the national jobless rate near 8.0 percent, masking impressive gains in services, construction, and manufacturing employment. As growth of the labor force reverts to a less hectic pace, the adjusted unemployment rate is expected to resume its steady decline. Parallel trends are evident at the state level since 1982. See charts 1 and 2, below.

CHART 1

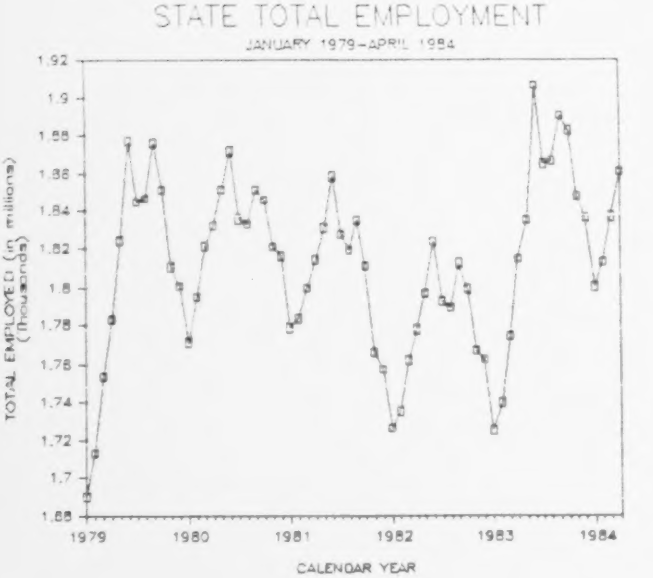
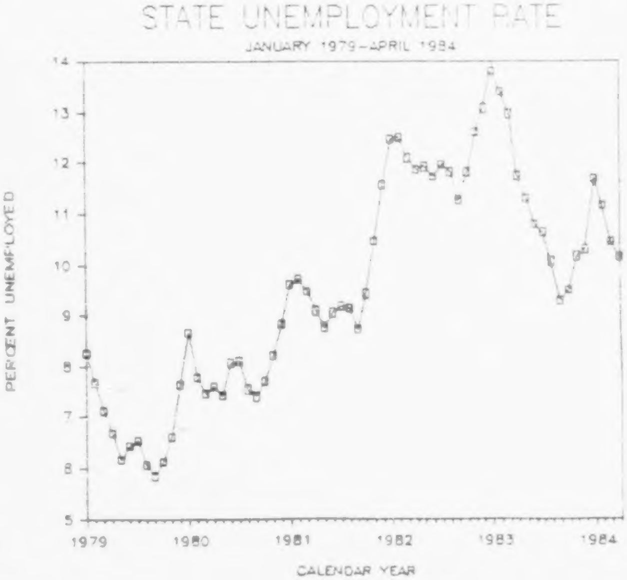


CHART 2



MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

April employment was generally stable in most of the state's manufacturing industries. The largest gains were seasonal in nature, with lumber and wood products, construction, and food processing accounting for most of the increase. (See table on page 9.) Among these, only food and kindred products equalled its normal March to April increase. Nationally, all key manufacturing indicators surged during April, alleviating some concerns about depressed March figures. Consumer goods and business equipment manufacturing both rose sharply. Consumer optimism remains strong, and industries at or near production capacity are still expanding to keep pace with consumer spending. Housing starts and sales of domestic automobiles also rebounded. The pick-up in housing reflects a comeback from a sharp March drop due to extremely harsh weather. Demand for new housing, however, is expected to flatten as home mortgage rates edge above 14 percent. With consumer and business spending showing renewed strength, employment in the state's manufacturing industries should at least hold steady. As part of a long-term trend, Washington's share of housing related manufacturing continues its shift to other parts of the nation. On the brighter side, employment in newer manufacturing industries, such as electrical equipment, instruments, and biotechnology, continues to expand more rapidly in the state than in the nation.

Durable Goods Industries

Slump in Lumber

Employment in lumber and wood products increased by 300 from March to April, about 700 jobs below the normal gain for this time of year. In the past three months, lumber and plywood prices have plummeted. Random Lengths reports a nationwide price decline of nearly 50 dollars per 1,000 board-feet for several lumber products from March to May. The price of plywood fell in that period from $215 to $193 per 1,000 square feet. While increases in home mortgage rates have been harmful, the slowdown in demand for housing is not the only factor behind the slump. Rising sales and overly optimistic homebuilding forecasts caused a sharp step-up in logging and milling operations over the past fifteen months. The result has been an excess in inventory, now compounded by heightened competition from Canadian timber companies.

Among publicly reported layoffs in timber, are a two week shut-down of three large Grays Harbor companies affecting 250 workers; and down-time of equal duration at Weyerhauser mills in Snoqualmie, White River, and Everett. The latter affects 690 employees. Among April recalls, the most significant was the return of 140 sawmill production workers to Merrill-Ring Incorporated; 300 employees had been laid-off last September.

Due to lack of work, however, Merril-Ring anticipates a mid-May layoff of 90 workers.

Bill to Revive Timber Industry

In a development which may help revive the Northwest timber industry, a bill has been introduced in the Federal House of Representatives to allow more than one hundred logging operators in the region to buy back Federal timber contracts at a discount. The contracts had been negotiated before the dramatic drop in timber prices four years ago. As a result, companies have been faced with contracts to cut timber at prices much higher than current and forseeable sale prices. A spokesman for the small mill owners association states that in the absence of Federal contract relief, some 200 Oregon and Washington mills face bankruptcy, with a potential loss of 20 to 30 thousand jobs region-wide. The bill, introduced by an Oregon Congressman, is the first to receive support from most key elements of the region's timber industry. Southern producers withdrew their opposition when a provision was added to limit the amount of timber that could be turned back to the Federal Government.

In another development with long-range positive implications for Northwest timber, Boise Cascade announced a $16 million dollar modernization project at its wood products manufacturing complex in Yakima. This should make its products more competitive with those of Southern and Canadian producers and with mid-West firms producing cheaper plywood substitutes.

Ups and Downs in Shipbuilding

Shipbuilding also lags the general employment recovery in Washington State. Its decline is reflected in payroll figures for "other transportation equipment." (See table on page 9.) Employment in this category, which also includes truck manufacturing, fell by 100 from March to April 1984, and by 600 since April 1983. Stiff competition from foreign marine carriers, which are often aided by government subsidies, has depressed the domestic marine shipping industry. Two recent developments, however, will boost employment in local shipbuilding. Marine Power & Equipment Corporation has been awarded a $76.8 million contract to build sixteen high-speed boats for the United States Coast Guard. The contractor will employ 500 workers, including 200 new jobs. Another positive announcement involved Tacoma Boat Company, which lost nearly $20 million dollars last year and cut employee wages. Tacoma Boat signed a $110 million dollar contract with a Houston based cruise line. If financing questions are fully resolved, Tacoma Boat will build an 800 passenger, 550 foot ship, the largest Tacoma waterfront project since World War II.

Employment in the state's instruments manufacturing industry, part of the "high technology" group, continues to advance briskly. April payrolls in this industry are 100 higher than in March 1984 and 600 above last year's level. Since the first quarter of 1979, jobs in instrument manufacturing have almost doubled, from 5,200 to nearly 10,000, the largest percentage increase among all major industrial groups. This accomplishment occurred amidst an economic recession in which durables manufacturing suffered the severest setbacks. Prospects for even swifter expansion in the years ahead are thus excellent. Employment growth in instruments, machinery and electrical equipment reflect the high skill level of the Washington labor force as well as positive measures taken by state government to create a hospitable environment for high technology industries.

Shifting Patterns in Lumber and High Technology

Aside from stable growth in aerospace, two major trends dominate the durable goods manufacturing picture in Washington State. In the state, a significant downward shift has occurred in the lumber and wood products share of total durable goods jobs; while nationally the lumber and wood products share of hardgoods employment has increased.

A reverse pattern characterizes the high technology group: machinery, electrial equipment and instruments. This sector's share of durables manufacturing is expanding more rapidly in the state than in the nation.

Nondurable Goods Industries

April was a steady and predictable month for employment in nondurable goods industries. The largest change occurred in the processing of canned and preserved foods, where payrolls jumped 700 above the March level. This month to month increase is average for a non-recession year. One major food processor added over 400 workers to assist in asparagus packaging. A frozen french fry processing firm, which had shut down in March for annual maintenance, hired back nearly 400 workers during April.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Nonmanufacturing industries in Washington continue to lead the state's employment recovery, with payrolls showing a net gain of 8,700 over the past month. This accounts for about one-third of the total job growth statewide during April. Retail trades (with an increase of 5,500 jobs), construction (up 1,500), transportation (up 500), and services (up 1,800), contributed most of the new jobs. A layoff of 1,700 state and local education employees offset some of these gains.

March to April changes in nonmanufacturing employment were due mainly to seasonal factors. A step-up in tourism, travel, and recreational activities, normal for the spring season, boosted payrolls in hotels, eating and drinking establishments, and convenience food stores. Improved weather conditions enabled outdoor work to resume in construction. Establishments dealing in building materials also hire at this time of year. The rush to complete income tax returns was responsible for temporary jobs in business services.

Baby Boom Echo Means More Jobs in Education

The April drop in education employment was also seasonal in nature. Spring vacation causes temporary staff layoffs in elementary and secondary schools. In higher education, enrollments usually drop during spring. This results in staff reductions when the new academic quarter begins. Most April job losses in local education are restored in May. For the longer term, job opportunities in elementary education are expected to expand rapidly. Pre-schools are experiencing their largest enrollment in fifteen years as the baby boom generation sends its own children to school. The National Education Association predicts a need for an additional 200,000 teachers each year from 1986 to 1990.

Although April developments in nonmanufacturing generally followed past seasonal patterns, there were some notable departures. The gain of 1,500 construction jobs was about 2,500 below normal. A slowdown in housing starts due to higher mortgage rates is the probable cause. Employment data collected in May and June will provide more definite answers.

Federal and State Measures Ease Impact of Higher Mortgage Rates

Both Federal and state governments are taking steps to ease the impact of rising mortgage rates. The National Mortgage Association is creating a government guaranteed mortgage-backed security with an adjustable interest rate. This will enhance the availability of adjustable rate mortgages. On the state level, the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, chartered during the last legislative session, is completing its first loan issue and preparing to offer a second. The program provides loans to eligible first-time home-buyers and housing developers at 11.2 percent interest, three percentage points below the current average thirty year home mortgage rate. Programs such as these, together with adjustable rate mortgages, are expected to prevent a recurrence of the 1981-81 recession in construction trades.

Lesser than expected March to April employment gains were also recorded in the services sector, particularly in business, health, and social services. Although new business incorporations statewide remained strong in the first quarter of 1984, cost conscious companies may be cutting back on the use of outside business services. Cutbacks in direct and subsidized government social and health services account for an additional part of the shortfall. During past non-recession years the April increase in services employment has been about 4,500, compared to 1,800 for the current year. Again, data from succeeding months will provide a clearer perspective on the shortfall.

The April jump in retail trade employment matched past seasonal increases, with further gains expected through spring and summer. Key national indicators of consumer activity point to continuing strength in trade industry profits and employment. Nationally, personal income, consumer spending, and retail sales all advanced solidly in April after dropping or holding steady in February and March. Predictions of a record year in Puget Sound tourism are supported thus far by Port of Seattle data showing a surge in the number of foreign visitors to the region.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Among recent national developments, an increase in the prime lending rate from 12.0 percent to 12.5 percent had the most immediate impact on Washington State employment. The third boost in the prime rate in the past three months has contributed to slower than normal job growth in lumber and wood products and construction. Consumer prices, however, have risen modestly despite the blistering pace of first quarter expansion. (Gross National Product in the first quarter of 1984 grew at a revised annual rate of 8.8 percent, four percentage points higher than initial estimates.) Lack of evidence that inflation is igniting should ease upward pressures on interest rates, enabling recovery to resume in logging, construction, and other interest rate-sensitive industries.

*** NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ***

AREA WAGE SURVEY Clallam & Jefferson Counties

The Wage Analysis Unit of the Research and Analysis Branch recently completed an occupational wage survey for Clallam and Jefferson counties. The survey report, based upon data from 148 establishments, presents wage ranges and averages for clerical, managerial, professional, technical and general occupations. The report, titled "AREA WAGE SURVEY, CLALLAM & JEFFERSON COUNTIES, FEBRUARY 1984," is available on request from Research and Analysis, P.O. Box 46502, Seattle, Washington 98146, Phone (206) 764-6453.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INFORMATION

The "1984 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INFORMATION" reports are now available for the state and all Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Washington State. These reports contain information on the characteristics of the labor force and are intended to assist employers attempting to meet affirmative action objectives. Persons already on the mailing lists for these publications will automatically receive these reports. Others may obtain them, without charge, from the Research and Analysis Branch, 212 Maple Park, Olympia, Washington 98504.

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/
(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Apr. 1984 (Prel.)	Mar. 1984 (Rev.)	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Change Mar.84 to Apr.84	Change Apr.83 to Apr.84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2,071.6	2,051.1	2,056.5	2,039.4	+20.5	+15.1
EMPLOYMENT	1,860.9	1,836.9	1,814.7	1,774.6	+24.0	+46.2
UNEMPLOYMENT	210.7	214.2	241.8	264.8	-3.5	-31.1
Percent of Labor Force	10.2	10.4	11.8	13.0	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/
(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Apr. 1984 (Prel.)	Mar. 1984 (Rev.)	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Change Mar.84 to Apr.84	Change Apr.83 to Apr.84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	1,617.3	1,605.9	1,568.8	1,544.1	+11.4	+48.5
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	282.0	280.3	275.7	272.1	+1.7	+6.3
Durable Goods	194.7	194.0	192.3	190.5	+0.7	+2.4
Lumber & Wood Products	41.7	41.4	40.5	38.7	+0.3	+1.2
Furniture & Fixtures	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	0.0	+0.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.6	-0.1	+0.3
Primary Metal Industries	13.5	13.5	12.2	12.0	0.0	+1.3
Aluminum Prod. & Processing	9.0	9.0	7.8	7.6	0.0	+1.2
Fabricated Metal Products	9.7	9.6	8.9 4/	8.9	+0.1	+0.8
Machinery	26.8	26.8	25.9	25.4	0.0	+0.9
Machinery (Exc. Elect.)	15.6	15.7	15.2 4/	14.9	-0.1	+0.4
Electrical & Elec. Equip	11.2	11.1	10.7	10.5	+0.1	+0.5
Transportation Equipment	79.1	79.0	82.7	83.8	+0.1	-3.6
Aerospace	63.2	63.0	66.2	67.3	+0.2	-3.0
Other Transp. Equipment	15.9	16.0	16.5	16.5	-0.1	-0.6
Instruments & Related Prod	9.8	9.7	9.2	9.2	+0.1	+0.6
Misc. Manufacturing Indus.	4.6	4.4	4.0	3.9	+0.2	+0.6
Nondurable Goods	87.3	86.3	83.4	81.6	+1.0	+3.9
Food & Kindred Products	30.7	30.1	30.0	28.6	+0.6	+0.7
Canned & Preserved Foods	10.4	9.7	9.9	8.4	+0.7	+0.5
Apparel & Other Text. Prod	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.5	0.0	+0.5
Paper & Allied Products	16.0	16.0	15.4	15.4	0.0	+0.6
Printing & Publishing	16.5	16.5	16.0	15.9	0.0	+0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.8	10.6	9.9	9.8	+0.2	+0.9
Other Nondurable Goods 3/	7.2 4/	7.0 4/	6.5	6.4	+0.2	+0.7
MINING & QUARRYING	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.5	0.0	+0.3
CONSTRUCTION	69.1	67.6	69.6	66.7	+1.5	-0.5
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	90.2	89.7	87.1	85.1	+0.5	+3.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	404.1	398.1	385.0	376.7	+6.0	+19.1
Wholesale Trade	102.6	102.1	98.4	96.4	+0.5	+4.2
Retail Trade	301.5	296.0	286.6	280.3	+5.5	+14.9
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	93.5	92.7	91.6	90.2	+0.8	+1.9
SERVICES	336.2	334.4	325.8	321.4	+1.8	+10.4
GOVERNMENT	339.3	340.2	331.4	329.4	-0.9	+7.9
Federal	67.6	67.3	67.3	66.8	+0.3	+0.3
State & Local	271.7	272.9	264.1	262.6	-1.2	+7.6
Education	149.5	151.2	145.1	145.0	-1.7	+4.4
(WORKERS IN LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are offical Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date: May 29, 1984

Benchmark: 1983

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	April 1984 Preliminary 3/				March 1984 Revised				April 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,071,600	1,860,900	210,700	10.2	2,051,100	1,836,900	214,200	10.4	2,056,500	1,814,700	241,800	11.8
Bellingham SMSA	52,400	46,500	5,900	11.3	52,000	46,100	5,900	11.3	51,400	44,800	6,600	12.8
Bremerton SMSA	65,100	60,000	5,100	7.8	64,100	59,300	4,800	7.5	63,800	58,600	5,200	8.2
Olympia SMSA	59,100	52,800	6,300	10.7	58,400	52,300	6,100	10.4	59,200	52,400	6,800	11.5
Seattle-Everett SMSA	911,200	835,400	75,800	8.3	905,900	829,600	76,300	8.4	896,500	803,700	92,800	10.4
Spokane SMSA	156,800	142,900	13,900	8.9	154,200	140,000	14,200	9.2	155,400	138,500	16,900	10.9
Tacoma SMSA	191,100	169,600	21,500	11.3	190,200	168,600	21,600	11.4	191,700	167,600	24,100	12.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,800	65,900	9,900	13.1	74,600	63,900	10,700	14.3	79,700	68,800	10,900	13.7
Yakima SMSA	91,000	77,100	13,900	15.3	88,300	72,800	15,500	17.6	88,000	74,300	13,700	15.6
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,770	33,400	5,370	13.9	37,830	32,120	5,710	15.1	38,730	32,290	6,440	16.6
Adams	7,890	6,910	980	12.4	7,730	6,630	1,100	14.2	7,490	6,750	740	9.9
Asotin	8,200	7,360	840	10.2	8,140	7,330	810	10.0	8,760	7,650	1,110	12.7
Clallam	20,000	17,310	2,690	13.5	19,540	16,710	2,830	14.5	20,490	16,630	3,860	18.8
Clark	94,590	86,300	8,290	8.8	93,790	85,600	8,190	8.7	93,970	84,100	9,870	10.5
Columbia	2,190	1,960	230	10.5	1,930	1,690	240	12.4	2,390	2,070	320	13.4
Cowlitz	33,080	28,560	4,520	13.7	32,960	28,610	4,350	13.2	33,700	28,600	5,100	15.1
Ferry	2,850	2,270	580	20.4	2,740	2,160	580	21.2	2,710	2,140	570	21.0
Garfield	1,300	1,180	120	9.2	1,260	1,130	130	10.3	1,270	1,170	100	7.9
Grant	24,180	21,070	3,110	12.9	23,810	20,600	3,210	13.5	23,930	20,920	3,010	12.6
Grays Harbor	28,440	24,340	4,100	14.4	28,130	24,070	4,060	14.4	32,090	27,380	4,710	14.7
Island	15,460	14,100	1,360	8.8	15,300	13,920	1,380	9.0	15,410	13,850	1,560	10.1
Jefferson	6,770	6,060	710	10.5	6,520	5,820	700	10.7	6,560	5,840	720	11.0
Kittitas	11,900	9,920	1,980	16.6	11,760	9,850	1,910	16.2	11,240	9,410	1,830	16.3
Klickitat	7,190	5,950	1,240	17.2	7,180	5,790	1,390	19.4	7,170	5,720	1,450	20.2
Lewis	24,680	21,050	3,630	14.7	24,380	20,890	3,490	14.3	25,040	21,130	3,910	15.6
Lincoln	4,620	4,430	190	4.1	4,490	4,250	240	5.3	4,600	4,360	240	5.2
Mason	10,860	9,610	1,250	11.5	10,710	9,540	1,170	10.9	11,030	9,530	1,500	13.6
Okanogan	15,770	12,690	3,080	19.5	15,730	12,290	3,440	21.9	16,280	12,750	3,530	21.7
Pacific	7,250	6,120	1,130	15.6	7,130	6,040	1,090	15.3	7,360	6,260	1,100	14.9
Pend Oreille	4,370	3,580	790	18.1	4,210	3,480	730	17.3	3,770	2,860	910	24.1
San Juan	3,660	3,360	300	8.2	3,620	3,290	330	9.1	3,810	3,450	360	9.4
Skagit	34,690	29,420	5,270	15.2	34,720	29,620	5,100	14.7	33,230	27,870	5,360	16.1
Skamania	2,770	2,220	550	19.9	2,980	2,330	650	21.8	3,000	2,310	690	23.0
Stevens	12,680	10,260	2,420	19.1	12,480	9,970	2,510	20.1	12,870	10,280	2,590	20.1
Wahkiakum	1,430	1,320	110	7.7	1,410	1,270	140	9.9	1,270	1,150	120	9.4
Walla Walla	26,180	23,230	2,950	11.3	25,920	22,820	3,100	12.0	25,770	23,260	2,510	9.7
Whitman	17,460	16,830	630	3.6	17,040	16,420	620	3.6	17,050	16,440	610	3.6

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

May 29, 1984
Benchmark 1983

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 1984 Preliminary 3/				March 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,066,100	1,853,400	212,700	10.3	2,059,500	1,840,500	219,000	10.6
Bellingham SMSA	52,300	46,300	6,000	11.5	52,200	46,200	6,000	11.5
Bremerton SMSA	64,900	59,800	5,100	7.9	64,300	59,400	4,900	7.6
Olympia SMSA	58,800	52,500	6,300	10.7	58,600	52,400	6,200	10.6
King County	714,600	657,500	57,100	8.0	715,300	656,900	58,400	8.2
Snohomish County	193,900	174,500	19,400	10.0	193,900	174,400	19,600	10.1
Spokane SMSA	156,300	142,300	14,000	9.0	154,800	140,300	14,500	9.4
Tacoma SMSA	190,600	168,900	21,700	11.4	191,000	168,900	22,100	11.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	75,600	65,600	10,000	13.2	74,900	64,000	10,900	14.6
Yakima SMSA	90,800	76,800	14,000	15.4	88,700	72,900	15,800	17.8
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,690	33,270	5,420	14.0	38,020	32,190	5,830	15.3
Adams	7,870	6,880	990	12.6	7,760	6,640	1,120	14.4
Asotin	8,130	7,330	850	10.4	8,180	7,350	830	10.1
Clallam	19,960	17,240	2,720	13.6	19,630	16,740	2,890	14.7
Clark	94,330	85,960	8,370	8.9	94,140	85,770	8,370	8.9
Columbia	2,180	1,950	230	10.6	1,940	1,690	250	12.9
Cowlitz	33,000	28,440	4,560	13.8	33,110	28,660	4,450	13.4
Ferry	2,850	2,260	590	20.7	2,750	2,160	590	21.5
Garfield	1,300	1,180	120	9.2	1,260	1,130	130	10.3
Grant	24,130	20,990	3,140	13.0	23,930	20,650	3,280	13.7
Grays Harbor	28,380	24,240	4,140	14.6	28,270	24,120	4,150	14.7
Island	15,420	14,040	1,380	8.9	15,360	13,950	1,410	9.2
Jefferson	6,760	6,040	720	10.7	6,550	5,830	720	11.0
Kittitas	11,880	9,880	2,000	16.8	11,820	9,870	1,950	16.5
Klickitat	7,170	5,920	1,250	17.4	7,220	5,800	1,420	19.7
Lewis	24,640	20,970	3,670	14.9	24,500	20,930	3,570	14.6
Lincoln	4,610	4,420	190	4.1	4,510	4,260	250	5.5
Mason	10,840	9,570	1,270	11.7	10,760	9,560	1,200	11.2
Okanogan	15,750	12,640	3,110	19.7	15,830	12,310	3,520	22.2
Pacific	7,240	6,100	1,140	15.7	7,170	6,050	1,120	15.6
Pend Oreille	4,360	3,570	790	18.1	4,240	3,490	750	17.7
San Juan	3,650	3,350	300	8.2	3,640	3,300	340	9.3
Skagit	34,620	29,300	5,320	15.4	34,890	29,670	5,220	15.0
Skamania	2,760	2,210	550	19.9	3,010	2,340	670	22.3
Stevens	12,660	10,220	2,440	19.3	12,560	9,990	2,570	20.5
Wahkiakum	1,430	1,310	120	8.4	1,420	1,270	150	10.6
Walla Walla	26,120	23,140	2,980	11.4	26,030	22,860	3,170	12.2
Whitman	17,400	16,770	630	3.6	17,100	16,460	640	3.7

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

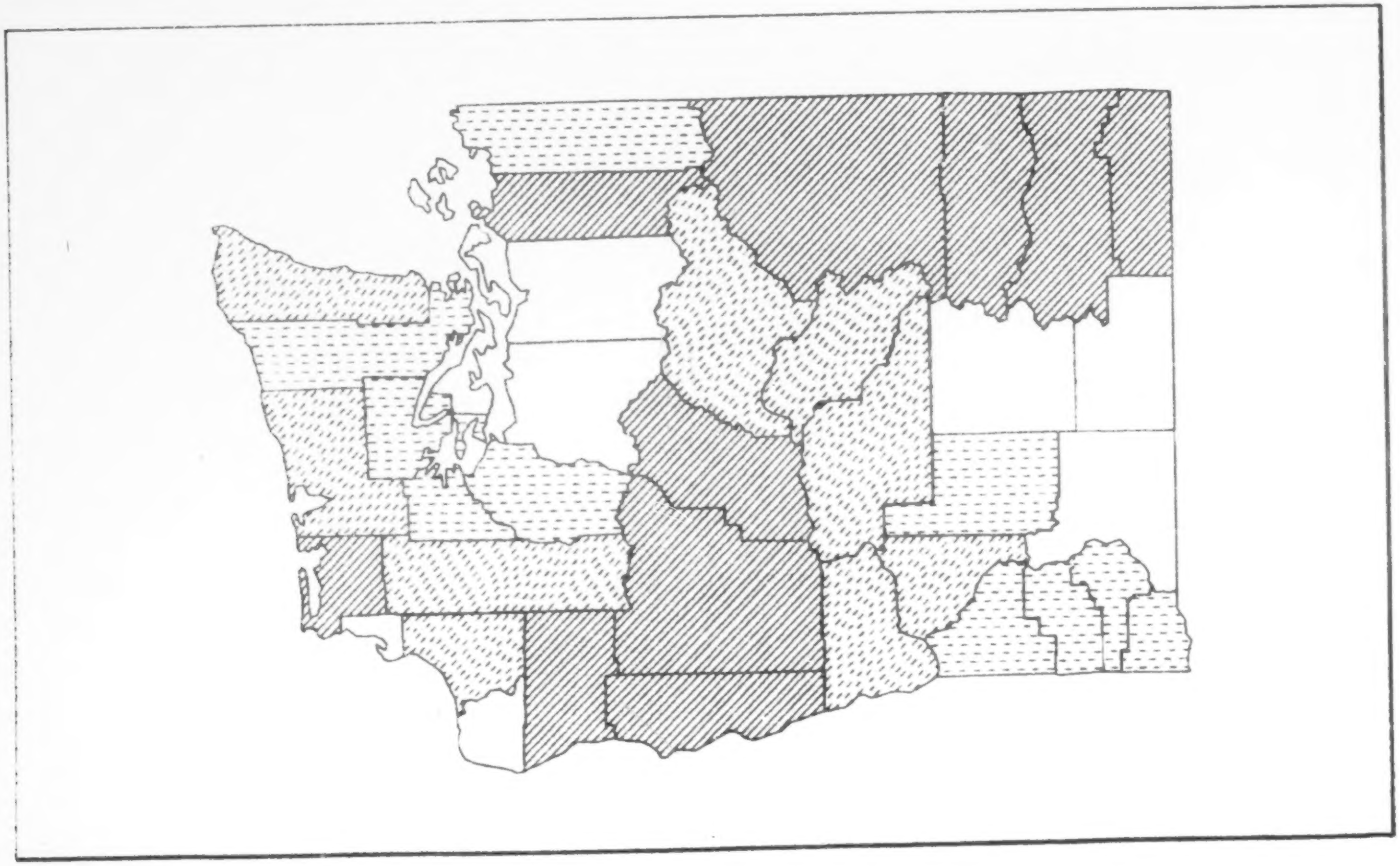
3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Mar. 1984 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	178,600	$453.15	$453.18	$446.55	39.2	39.0	39.0	$11.56	$11.62	$11.45
Lumber and Wood Products	37,700	442.33	425.24	434.51	39.6	37.9	38.9	11.17	11.22	11.17
Primary Metal Industries	10,800	561.04	556.28	555.05	41.9	41.7	42.5	13.39	13.34	13.06
Fabricated Metal Products	7,100	482.10	465.20	498.57	41.1	40.0	40.9	11.73	11.63	12.19
Machinery	16,700	409.37	397.97	365.90	39.4	38.6	37.8	10.39	10.31	9.68
Food and Kindred Products	22,400	349.90	365.25	355.05	36.6	37.5	37.1	9.56	9.74	9.57
Chemicals and Allied Products	5,200	520.83	530.04	507.91	41.7	42.1	41.7	12.49	12.59	12.18
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	49,400	641.58	597.91	646.92	37.0	35.4	36.0	17.34	16.89	17.97
Wholesale and Retail Trade	245,800	310.71	306.28	306.57	33.7	33.4	33.8	9.22	9.17	9.07

APRIL
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES

▨ OVER 15.3
▒ 13.3 - 15.3
☰ 10.0 - 13.2
□ UNDER 10.0



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JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 6 June 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

The employment picture in Washington State was generally brighter in May, despite sluggish conditions in housing related industries and a sharp cutback in primary metals production. The latter is due to a world-wide oversupply of aluminum and copper, accompanied by rapidly falling prices. Another hike in the prime lending rate, from 12.5 to 13.0 percent, will prevent an immediate rebound in construction and lumber and wood products. Amidst these conditions, the state's unemployment rate still fell 0.5 of a percentage point from a revised 10.0 percent in April to 9.5 percent in May. Expansion of the Puget Sound economy, led by growth and optimism in aerospace, is balancing weaker recovery elsewhere in the state. Total employment in the state rose by nearly 33,000 in May, while the number of persons classified as unemployed fell by 7,700. A major part of the May boost in payrolls was due to the asparagus harvest which provided thousands of temporary jobs in eastern Washington. These changes are normal for a non-recession year; and surpass recession-year norms by a wide margin. During the 1980-82 recession, the state's May jobless rate fell by an average of only 0.2 of a percentage point. The May drop in unemployment during this period averaged just 1,300. Continuing strength in business investments has stablized employment in the state's (non-housing related) durable goods sector. Consumer spending, still vigorous after eighteen months of economic recovery, is fueling job growth in retail trades and services.

	May 1984*	April 1984*	May 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,095,900	2,070,700	2,056,500
Total State Employment	1,896,200	1,863,300	1,814,700
Total Unemployment	199,700	207,400	241,800
State Unemployment Rate	9.5	10.0	11.8
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.6	9.8

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

The state unemployment rate normally reaches its low point of the year in May. Weather conditions have improved enough to allow rehiring of agricultural and contruction workers; and the employment surge in tourism and travel related industries is well underway. At the same time, the labor supply holds steady in May, as young people continue attending classes. The unemployment rate in the summer usually rises as thousands of students seek summer employment.

On the national level, another increase in the prime lending rate and larger than expected growth in Gross National Product (GNP), were the major events of the past month. The rise in the prime rate was the fourth since mid-March. The current level--of 13.0 percent--is the highest since October, 1982. Although the housing market has already suffered, consumer demand for most "big ticket" durables including automobiles, remains strong. Business investments are also forging ahead in the face of higher interest rates. With plant capacity utilization at 82 percent, business again raised its capital spending plans for 1984. If companies adhere to expansion plans, business will spend 14.8 percent more in 1984 than in 1983. The broadest measure of aggregate national economic activity, GNP, increased an estimated 5.7 percent during the second quarter, about two percentage points higher than the consensus forecast. First quarter GNP, initially estimated at 8.8 percent, was revised upward to 9.7 percent. GNP has grown at a faster pace over the past eighteen months than in any comparable post recession period since the end of the Korean War (1954-55). Despite the rapid pace of economic growth, inflation is low, with the May Consumer Price Index increasing by only 0.2 percent over the previous month.

Nationally, the non-adjusted jobless rate fell 0.4 of a percentage point in May to 7.6 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate dropped for the first time since February, from 7.8 percent in the previous three months to 7.5 percent in May. The adjusted jobless rate filters transient seasonal changes in employment to reveal longer-term underlying trends. The healthy May decline in this measure of national labor market conditions, suggests there is still extraordinary vigor in the economy. The Commerce Department Index of Leading Economic Indicators, which is designed to predict economic turning points, suggests a flattening in growth by about the middle of next year. The Index dropped slightly in May, following small gains during March and April.

CHART 1

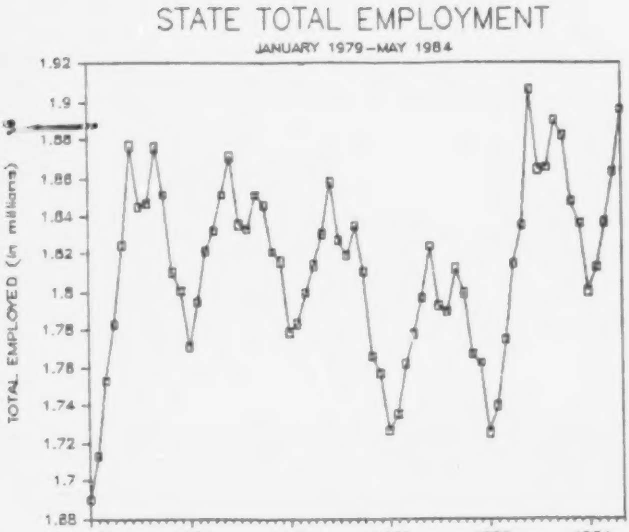
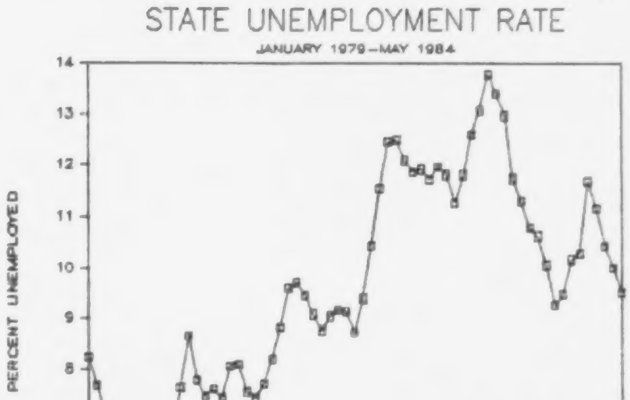


CHART 2



MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Renewed strength in business spending on capital goods is helping the state consolidate modest, but steady, progress in manufacturing employment over the past year. Overall, payrolls in this sector were up by 2,700 in May despite a recession in lumber and wood products. The latter has been caused by high mortgage rates and low timber prices. Gradual expansion in aerospace, a slight upturn in shipbuilding, and seasonal gains in food processing helped maintain an upward trend in manufacturing jobs (see table on page 9). The May increase in lumber and wood products employment was well below seasonal norms. Primary metals employment, which normally grows in May, held steady reflecting a cutback in aluminum production due to a world wide oversupply.

Durable Goods Industries

For the second straight month, the payroll gain in lumber and wood products of about 300, was well below the usual May increase. Normally, this industry adds 1000-3000 jobs at this time of year. Low prices for lumber and plywood resulting from an over-supply and a sluggish housing market are still the culprits.

Pick-up in Lumber Production

In the Washington and Oregon coastal region, lumber production fell during May to thirty percent below normal. Preliminary June figures, however, paint a brighter picture with production in the region bouncing back to five percent below normal during the first week of June.

Although shrinking inventories will bring summer payrolls in lumber closer to the seasonal norm, the industry's long-term outlook is not considered bright. Mid-western and southern producers are capturing larger shares of the market with cheaper plywood substitutes and lower transportation costs to customers in most regions of the country. Random Lengths, a wood products newsletter, estimates that production of substitutes could soar from 1.2 billion square feet last year to 5 billion by 1985. This would represent one-quarter of the national plywood market. The automated plants needed to produce the substitutes, however, are costly to establish. Managment must be prepared to sustain heavy losses in the initial period of operation.

Layoff at Simpson Timber

Among the publicly reported layoffs, the most far-reaching was at Simpson Timber Company where nearly one-thousand employees were due to be furloughed at the end of May. The affected plants were at Shelton, McCleary and Albany, Oregon. On the brighter side, a mill in Clark County that closed five years ago, is starting up again. Although the workforce will initially be small--with ten workers employed in log storage and chipping--the company hopes to start a veneer plant and a small sawmill next year. The development has been a psychological boost to the northern Clark County community whose economy was devastated in 1979 when the plant closed, laying off 350 workers.

Employment in primary metals production was unchanged in May. In past years, this industry has added about 200-300 workers at this time of year. The current shortfall signifies a slowdown in aluminum production precipitated by a world wide oversupply and rapidly falling prices.

Slowdowns in Aluminum and Copper

Two of five Aluminum Company of America (ALOCA) potlines in Vancouver, Washington are scheduled to be shut down July 1, sending 140 workers to the unemployment lines. In April of 1983, the Bonneville Power Authority offered temporary reduced electricity rates. ALCOA responded by adding a potline. The reduced rates, however, expired last November. Northwest aluminum industry officials attribute the shutdowns to higher BPA rates. Power costs dictate which plants will be shut down first when the aluminum market is in recession. Six aluminum companies in the region purchase electricity directly from the BPA to fuel ten smelters. Over the past five years, their power rates have risen to 2.68 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh), from less than one-half cent in 1979. The worldwide average is estimated at two cents per kwh. When the aluminum market is saturated, northwest plants are now among the first considered for closure, say regional aluminum industry officials.

In a related development, the United States Supreme Court gave the BPA broad discretion to allocate hydroelectric power in the Pacific Northwest. The decision is considered a victory for the aluminum industry and BPA. In times of scarce energy, BPA will now be able to continue supplying service to aluminum-companies. Under previous contracts, their service may have been interrupted so that BPA could supply public utility districts (which, in turn, serve homes and small businesses). In general, power rate and usage controversies in the northwest have pitted large industrial users against residential customers.

In another development involving the primary metals industry, Asarco in Tacoma announced that its smelting operations will shut down in June of 1985. The closure will mean a loss of 500 of the plant's 550 jobs. Low copper prices, attributed to persistent overproduction by nationalized companies in developing countries, was cited as a prime cause. The high cost of compliance with Federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations was also mentioned by company officials as a reason for the shutdown. A small part of the Asarco workforce will be retained to assist in the production and storage of arsenic.

Hiring Continues in Aerospace

On the brighter side, employment in transportation equipment jumped by 600 during May, with aerospace accounting for 400 jobs. This is consistent with an April announcement by The Boeing Company, boosting its projected hiring for 1984 by 2,300 jobs. The revision was prompted by an improved outlook for military and commercial airline sales, with the Boeing 737 mid-sized jetliner leading the way.

May 1984 employment in aerospace is ten percent below the pre-recession level of May, 1979. Payroll increases, on the order 300-400 per month, are expected to continue in the industry through the remainder of 1984.

Recent news reports indicate that the governments of Britain, France, and Germany are exploring methods to provide direct loans or loan guarantees at low rates to United States airline companies as an inducement to purchase European jetliners. If Airbus Industries, Boeing's leading international competitor in the commerical airline market, proceeds with the financing plan, domestic airline producers are expected to advocate countermeasures. Possible proposals include Federal financing of jetliner sales to U.S. companies and restrictions on foreign financing of U.S. airline purchases.

Modest Comeback in Shipbuilding

Employment in transportation equipment manufacturing other than aerospace, jumped by a healthy 200 during May, with shipbuilding adding most of the jobs. One large firm hired 90 workers to prepare for a major ship-launching. The May upturn in shipbuilding follows reports last month that Tacoma Boat Building Company and Marine Power and Equipment Corporation had each negotiated major contracts in the \$70 to \$100 million range, promising hundreds of new manufacturing jobs. These acquisitions, along with the May upturn in employment, may signal a halt to the recession in northwest shipbuilding. This industry has lagged the general employment recovery in Washington State.

Nondurable Goods Employment

The largest May gain in manufacturing employment was recorded in food and kindred products. Overall, payrolls in this industry jumped by 1,200 during May. This is a healthy increase, but 500-1000 below the seasonal norm for a non-recession year. Four large companies, each hiring 200-300 workers to process the asparagus crop, accounted for the bulk of the May pick-up. This was partially offset by a loss of over 100 jobs in a large potato processing firm, a normal occurence for the season. Among nondurables, the paper and allied products industry continues its strong recovery. After adding 200 to its payrolls in May, this industry's employment is only 6.4 percent below the pre-recession, May 1979 level. The demand for cartons and other packaging materials in response to heightened consumer spending has helped revive the paper and allied products sector. The boom in small computer sales has also created higher demand for computer printing paper.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Nonmanufacturing industries in Washington are contributing most of the new jobs in this post-recession period. Seasonal factors were the primary reason for May employment gains in contract construction (up 2,400), wholesale and retail trade (up 4,200), and services employment (up 2,200). A sharp deceleration in new housing starts, due to higher mortgage rates, kept a lid on the May increase in construction employment. Other May gains, however, were within seasonal norms, indicating a generally hearty nonmanufacturing sector.

Consumer Spending Fuels Trade and Services Employment

Steady growth in nonmanufacturing, particularly in the trade and services industries, is a result of the general employment recovery and healthy gains in real personal income. The State Office of Financial Management reports that real personal income grew in the fourth quarter of 1983 at a strong annual rate of 5.4 percent. A rise of two to three percent is normal. Disposable income, the portion of personal income readily available for spending, also advanced briskly in the fourth quarter, at an annual rate of 8.0 percent. (This percentage increase is computed for current rather than inflation adjusted dollars). Combined with a vital tourist industry, the growth in personal income has sparked the rebound in trade and services employment. During May, this was reflected in the payrolls of restaurants (+2,500), service stations (+400), and hotels (+500). Only personal services, which includes individual income tax preparation, showed a significant drop in employment as the tax return deadline passed.

In the transportation, communication and public utilities sector, Pacific Northwest Bell announced plans to eliminate 550 jobs by the end of July. Installers and repairmen are the most affected occupation. The reduction-in-force, however, is expected to be accomplished through departure incentives and attrition, rather than by forced termination. Last year PNB completed a 15 percent reduction in its workforce. The Company's workload continues to decline as new entrants in the communications field attract business that once belonged exclusively to the Bell system. A stagnant housing market has also contributed to slackening demand for telephone service. Overall, however, employment in the transportation, communication and utilities group is rebounding nicely from its recession low-point in early 1983. Payrolls in May 1984 reached 91,000, close to the industry's peak-year annual average of 91,400, in 1980. Employment levels in this industry parallel movements in population, new business incorporations, and housing starts. Relative stability in total population, however, insulates this industry from the severest effects of recession. At its lowpoint, in January 1983, employment levels were still within five percent of the peak year average.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Capital Spending Looks Strong

Survey data and other key indicators of business activity, point to continued strength in capital spending for the remainder of 1984, and well into 1985. As plant capacity is pushed to the limits, business has raised its spending plans. Higher interest rates have not dampened corporate enthusiasm. Authorizations to spend for new plant and equipment by the nation's 1000 largest manufacturers jumped eleven percent in the first quarter. The effects will be felt in the second half of 1984. This is good news for Washington State's large capital goods industrial sector. Combined with solid, sustainable growth in Boeing payrolls, hardgoods manufacturing in the state should hold steady or grow modestly through the end of the year.

Despite the protracted slump in lumber and wood products, a beginning slack in primary metals, and a permanent loss of thousands of traditional, heavy industry jobs, total employment in manufacturing is already ninety-two percent of its pre-recession level. (The comparable national figure is ninety-three percent.)

Higher Interest Rates Dampen Housing Market

Low Inflation Helps Ease Pressure on Interest Rates

A pick-up in lumber and wood products would remove the major blemish on the state's manufacturing recovery. Immediate revival, however, is not likely, as the national housing picture is clouded by higher interest rates. Nationally, housing starts fell 10.5 percent in May. In the previous month, new home sales dipped 4.9 percent. Low inflation is the one bright indicator in the housing outlook. If prices rise slowly, as in the first half of 1984, pressure to hike interest rates will subside. (Latest Consumer Price Index data is provided in the table on page eight.) Moderation in wage increases and solid productivity gains are positive signs in the fight to hold inflation down. A slowing of GNP growth would also ease pressure on interest rates and help put the housing recovery back on track. Most forecasters see GNP growing in the two to three percent range for the third quarter, following the blistering pace of expansion in the previous two quarters.

In the non-manufacturing sector, trade and service employment has risen steeply and steadily since the onset of recovery. In the state, a turnaround in aerospace and stability in other manufacturing industries, is helping spark consumer activity, which drives employment in trades and services. The Puget Sound economy has been the main beneficiary, with added impetus provided by tourism and travel.

Nationally, the University of Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment registered another rise last month. Highlighting the survey were extremely positive attitudes toward the purchase of large consumer durables.

If the present expansion follows post World War II patterns, it will continue thorugh the latter half of 1986. Over the past forty years, the shortest post-recession upturn was twelve months, and the longest, 106 months. The current expansion has been underway for about eighteen months.

READER REQUEST FOR CONUMER PRICE INDEX

Due to numerous inquiries regarding the local and national Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Washington Labor Market Report will publish CPI data on a bimonthly basis as part of the "National Context" section. The CPI for the Seattle-Everett area is presently computed bimonthly; however, starting in 1987, the Seattle-Everett CPI will be computed semi-annually.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1967=100)

	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE				
				Year Ending		2 Months Ending		1 Month Ending
	May 1983	Apr. 1984	May 1984	Apr. 1984	May 1984	Apr. 1984	May 1984	May 1984
U.S. City Average	297.1	308.8	309.7	4.5	4.2	0.7	0.8	0.3
Seattle-Everett	300.9	-	313.0	-	4.0	-	0.9	-

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	May. 1984 (Prel.)	Apr. 1984 (Rev.)	May. 1983	Apr. 1983	Change Apr. 84 to May. 84	Change May. 83 to May. 84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE.....	2,095.9	2,070.7	2,069.5	2,056.5	+25.2	+26.4
EMPLOYMENT........................	1,896.2	1,863.3	1,835.4	1,814.7	+32.9	+60.8
UNEMPLOYMENT......................	199.7	207.4	234.1	241.8	-7.7	-34.4
Percent of Labor Force........	9.5	10.0	11.3	11.8	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	May. 1984 (Prel.)	Apr. 1984 (Rev.)	May. 1983	Apr. 1983	Change Apr. 84 to May. 84	Change May. 83 to May. 84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,632.8	1,619.7	1,581.9	1,568.8	+13.1	+50.9
TOTAL MANUFACTURING..............	285.2	282.5	277.1	275.7	+2.7	+8.1
Durable Goods....................	196.7	195.5	192.4	192.3	+1.2	+4.3
Lumber & Wood Products.........	4/42.4	42.1	42.2	40.5	+0.3	+0.2
Furniture & Fixtures...........	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.1	0.0	+0.2
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod......	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	+0.1	+0.3
Primary Metal Industries.......	13.5	13.5	12.5	12.2	0.0	+1.0
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	8.9	8.9	8.2	7.8	0.0	+0.7
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.8	9.7	4/8.9	4/8.9	+0.1	+0.9
Machinery......................	27.4	27.3	25.6	25.9	+0.1	+1.8
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	16.1	16.0	4/14.7	4/15.2	+0.1	+1.4
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	11.3	11.3	10.9	10.7	0.0	+0.4
Transportation Equipment.......	79.7	79.1	80.8	82.7	+0.6	-1.1
Aerospace.....................	63.6	63.2	65.0	66.2	+0.4	-1.4
Other Transp. Equipment.......	16.1	15.9	4/15.8	16.5	+0.2	+0.3
Instruments & Related Prod.....	9.7	9.7	9.1	9.2	0.0	+0.6
Misc. Manufacturing Ind........	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.0	0.0	+0.4
Nondurable Goods................	88.5	87.0	84.7	83.4	+1.5	+3.8
Food & Kindred Products........	31.5	30.3	30.9	30.0	+1.2	+0.6
Canned & Preserved Foods......	11.2	10.2	10.4	9.9	+1.0	+0.8
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.2	6.2	5.6	5.6	0.0	+0.6
Paper & Allied Products........	16.2	16.0	15.4	15.4	+0.2	+0.8
Printing & Publishing..........	16.4	16.5	16.1	16.0	-0.1	+0.3
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.9	10.8	10.1	9.9	+0.1	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	4/7.3	4/7.2	6.6	6.5	+0.1	+0.7
MINING & QUARRYING...............	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	0.0	+0.1
CONSTRUCTION.....................	71.9	69.5	72.3	69.6	+2.4	-0.4
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	91.0	90.6	87.7	87.1	+0.4	+3.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	408.0	403.8	390.3	385.0	+4.2	+17.7
Wholesale Trade..................	103.1	102.6	98.8	98.4	+0.5	+4.3
Retail Trade.....................	304.9	301.2	291.5	286.6	+3.7	+13.4
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	93.7	93.5	92.1	91.6	+0.2	+1.6
SERVICES.........................	339.5	337.3	326.9	325.8	+2.2	+12.6
GOVERNMENT.......................	340.7	339.7	332.8	331.4	+1.0	+7.9
Federal..........................	68.4	67.7	67.4	67.3	+0.7	+1.0
State & Local....................	272.3	272.0	265.4	264.1	+0.3	+6.9
Education......................	150.2	150.1	145.5	145.1	+0.1	+4.7
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	+0.1	0.0

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date: June 25, 1984
Benchmark: 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	May 1984 Preliminary 3/				April 1984 Revised				May 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,095,900	1,896,200	199,700	9.5	2,070,700	1,863,300	207,400	10.0	2,069,500	1,835,400	234,100	11.3
Bellingham SMSA	52,600	47,100	5,500	10.5	52,400	46,500	5,900	11.3	51,500	45,400	6,100	11.8
Bremerton SMSA	65,200	60,500	4,700	7.2	64,800	59,900	4,900	7.6	64,000	58,800	5,200	8.1
Olympia SMSA	59,800	53,800	6,000	10.0	58,900	52,700	6,200	10.5	59,500	53,000	6,500	10.9
Seattle-Everett SMSA	916,200	841,900	74,300	8.1	909,800	835,100	74,700	8.2	899,200	806,800	92,400	10.3
Spokane SMSA	157,800	144,400	13,400	8.5	156,700	143,100	13,600	8.7	155,800	139,600	16,200	10.4
Tacoma SMSA	193,800	173,300	20,500	10.6	193,500	172,300	21,200	11.0	192,000	168,100	23,900	12.4
Tri-Cities Area 2/	77,600	67,900	9,700	12.5	75,600	65,700	9,900	13.1	79,700	68,800	10,900	13.7
Yakima SMSA	96,000	82,800	13,200	13.8	91,000	77,300	13,700	15.1	96,200	82,600	13,600	14.1
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,700	32,570	5,200	13.8	38,480	33,220	5,260	13.7	38,230	32,100	6,130	16.0
Adams	8,500	7,540	960	11.3	7,830	6,870	960	12.3	7,570	6,660	970	12.8
Asotin	8,540	7,790	750	8.8	8,190	7,350	840	10.3	8,830	7,830	1,000	11.3
Clallam	19,910	17,600	2,310	11.6	19,870	17,270	2,600	13.1	19,740	16,850	2,890	14.6
Clark	93,960	86,500	7,460	7.9	94,250	86,200	8,050	8.5	94,080	84,520	9,560	10.2
Columbia	2,740	2,550	190	6.9	2,180	1,960	220	10.1	2,810	2,560	250	8.9
Cowlitz	33,430	29,210	4,220	12.6	32,950	28,470	4,480	13.6	33,760	28,680	5,080	15.0
Ferry	2,810	2,380	430	15.3	2,840	2,260	580	20.4	2,760	2,220	540	19.6
Garfield	1,470	1,340	130	8.8	1,300	1,180	120	9.2	1,330	1,220	110	8.3
Grant	26,130	23,110	3,020	11.6	24,040	20,980	3,060	12.7	24,450	21,460	2,990	12.2
Grays Harbor	29,100	25,240	3,860	13.3	28,840	24,760	4,080	14.1	31,860	27,620	4,240	13.3
Island	15,720	14,420	1,300	8.3	15,420	14,070	1,350	8.8	15,740	14,200	1,540	9.8
Jefferson	6,880	6,260	620	9.0	6,740	6,050	690	10.2	6,680	6,020	660	9.9
Kittitas	11,920	10,280	1,640	13.8	11,840	9,870	1,970	16.6	11,270	9,760	1,510	13.4
Klickitat	7,410	6,330	1,080	14.6	7,150	5,930	1,220	17.1	7,100	6,000	1,100	15.5
Lewis	25,200	22,060	3,140	12.5	24,720	21,160	3,560	14.4	24,690	21,130	3,560	14.4
Lincoln	5,210	5,020	190	3.6	4,620	4,430	190	4.1	4,740	4,520	220	4.6
Mason	11,170	10,050	1,120	10.0	11,100	9,850	1,250	11.3	11,170	9,780	1,390	12.4
Okanogan	15,770	13,150	2,620	16.6	15,670	12,590	3,080	19.7	16,180	13,300	2,880	17.8
Pacific	7,820	6,500	1,320	16.9	7,390	6,280	1,110	15.0	7,360	6,290	1,070	14.5
Pend Oreille	4,430	3,730	700	15.8	4,360	3,570	790	18.1	3,740	2,970	770	20.6
San Juan	3,900	3,650	250	6.4	3,710	3,420	290	7.8	3,880	3,570	310	8.0
Skagit	34,420	29,720	4,700	13.7	34,170	29,030	5,140	15.0	33,670	28,720	4,950	14.7
Skamania	2,820	2,330	490	17.4	2,780	2,250	530	19.1	3,000	2,440	560	18.7
Stevens	12,840	10,920	1,920	15.0	12,660	10,240	2,420	19.1	12,920	10,640	2,280	17.6
Wahkiakum	1,490	1,370	120	8.1	1,420	1,320	100	7.0	1,250	1,150	100	8.0
Walla Walla	27,180	25,000	2,180	8.0	26,060	23,190	2,870	11.0	26,100	24,080	2,020	7.7
Whitman	18,450	17,940	510	2.8	17,410	16,800	610	3.5	16,710	16,100	610	3.7

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

June 24, 1984
Benchmark 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 1984 Preliminary				April 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,068,800	1,868,400	200,400	9.7	2,065,200	1,855,600	209,600	10.1
Bellingham SMSA	51,900	46,400	5,500	10.6	52,300	46,300	6,000	11.5
Bremerton SMSA	64,300	59,600	4,700	7.3	64,700	59,700	5,000	7.7
Olympia SMSA	59,000	53,000	6,000	10.2	58,700	52,400	6,300	10.7
King County	710,300	655,600	54,700	7.7	713,600	657,200	56,400	7.9
Snohomish County	193,800	174,000	19,800	10.2	193,500	174,450	19,050	9.8
Spokane SMSA	155,700	142,300	13,400	8.6	156,200	142,500	13,700	8.8
Tacoma SMSA	191,300	170,700	20,600	10.8	193,000	171,600	21,400	11.1
Tri-Cities Area 2/	76,600	66,900	9,700	12.7	75,500	65,500	10,000	13.2
Yakima SMSA	94,800	81,600	13,200	13.9	90,800	76,900	13,900	15.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,300	32,090	5,210	14.0	38,410	33,090	5,320	13.9
Adams	8,390	7,430	960	11.4	7,810	6,840	970	12.4
Asotin	8,420	7,670	750	8.9	8,170	7,320	850	10.4
Clallam	19,670	17,350	2,320	11.8	19,830	17,200	2,630	13.3
Clark	92,720	85,230	7,490	8.1	93,990	85,850	8,140	8.7
Columbia	2,700	2,510	190	7.0	2,180	1,950	230	10.6
Cowlitz	33,010	28,780	4,230	12.8	32,890	28,360	4,530	13.8
Ferry	2,780	2,340	440	15.8	2,840	2,250	590	20.8
Garfield	1,450	1,320	130	9.0	1,290	1,170	120	9.3
Grant	25,800	22,770	3,030	11.7	23,990	20,900	3,090	12.9
Grays Harbor	28,740	24,870	3,870	13.5	28,780	24,650	4,130	14.4
Island	15,520	14,210	1,310	8.4	15,370	14,010	1,360	8.8
Jefferson	6,800	6,170	630	9.3	6,730	6,030	700	10.4
Kittitas	11,770	10,130	1,640	13.9	11,820	9,830	1,990	16.8
Klickitat	7,310	6,230	1,080	14.8	7,150	5,910	1,240	17.3
Lewis	24,890	21,740	3,150	12.7	24,670	21,080	3,590	14.6
Lincoln	5,140	4,950	190	3.7	4,600	4,410	190	4.1
Mason	11,020	9,900	1,120	10.2	11,070	9,810	1,260	11.4
Okanogan	15,580	12,950	2,630	16.9	15,650	12,540	3,110	19.9
Pacific	7,730	6,400	1,330	17.2	7,370	6,250	1,120	15.2
Pend Oreille	4,380	3,680	700	16.0	4,350	3,560	790	18.2
San Juan	3,840	3,590	250	6.5	3,700	3,400	300	8.1
Skagit	34,000	29,290	4,710	13.9	34,100	28,910	5,190	15.2
Skamania	2,790	2,290	500	17.9	2,770	2,240	530	19.1
Stevens	12,690	10,760	1,930	15.2	12,650	10,200	2,450	19.4
Wahkiakum	1,470	1,350	120	8.2	1,410	1,310	100	7.1
Walla Walla	26,830	24,640	2,190	8.2	25,990	23,090	2,900	11.2
Whitman	18,200	17,680	520	2.9	17,340	16,730	610	3.5

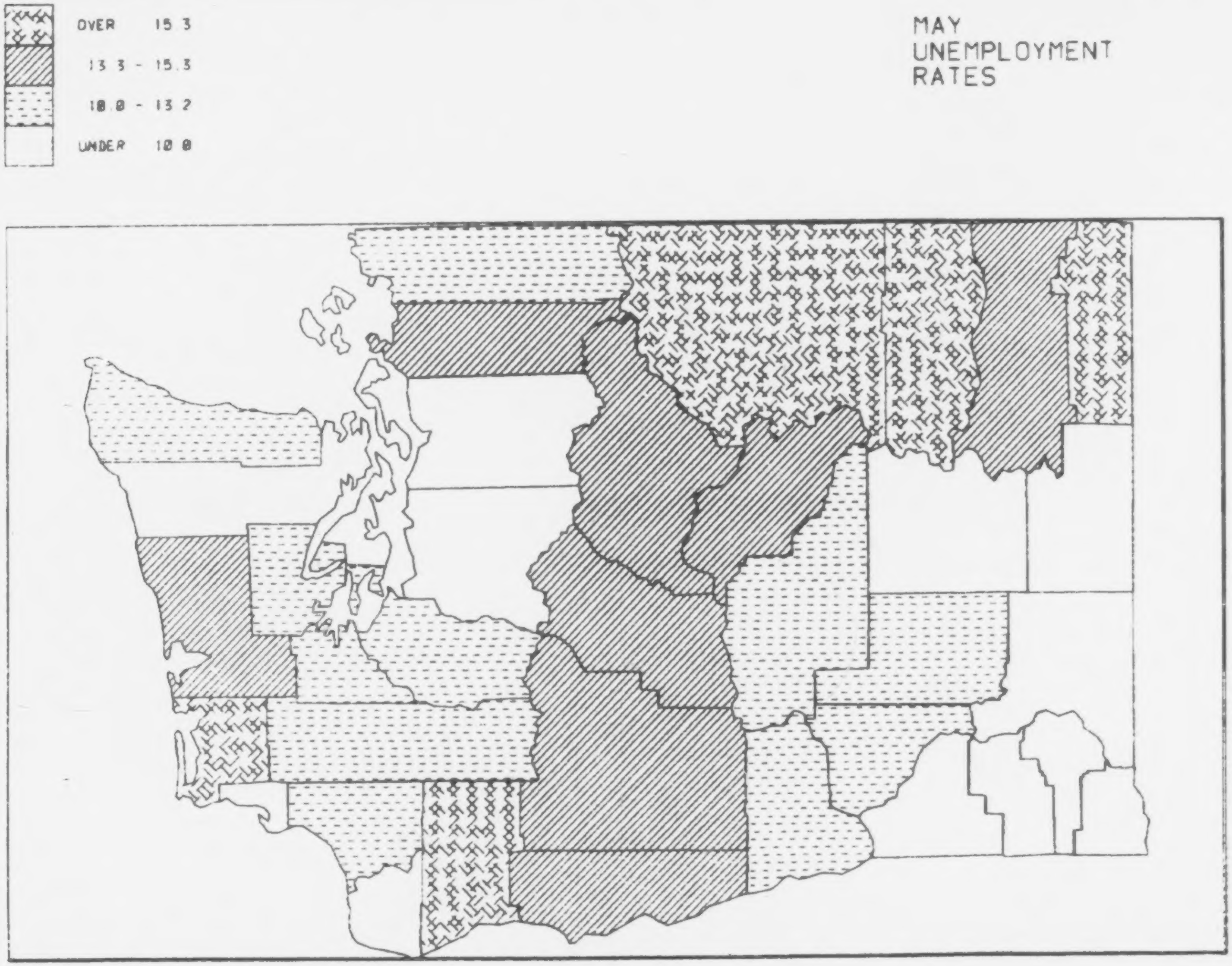
1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Apr. 1984 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Apr. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983	Apr. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983	Apr. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES................	180,300	$454.70	$453.15	$427.52	39.3	39.2	37.7	$11.57	$11.56	$11.34
Lumber and Wood Products..................	38,300	436.89	442.33	450.87	38.8	39.6	39.9	11.26	11.17	11.30
Primary Metal Industries..................	10,800	560.77	561.04	537.93	42.1	41.9	41.7	13.32	13.39	12.90
Fabricated Metal Products.................	7,200	481.90	482.10	494.10	41.4	41.1	40.6	11.64	11.73	12.17
Machinery.................................	16,900	409.25	409.37	374.57	39.2	39.4	38.3	10.44	10.39	9.78
Food and Kindred Products.................	22,800	354.31	349.90	335.56	37.1	36.6	35.1	9.55	9.56	9.56
Chemicals and Allied Products.............	5,300	546.07	520.83	507.41	42.2	41.7	41.9	12.94	12.49	12.11
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction..............................	50,900	608.29	641.58	641.16	36.6	37.0	36.0	16.62	17.34	17.81
Wholesale and Retail Trade................	247,900	321.89	310.71	313.61	34.5	33.7	34.2	9.33	9.22	9.17


OVER 15.3
13.3 - 15.3
10.0 - 13.2
UNDER 10.0

MAY
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES

5/21/84 S8340-3 A

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 7 July 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

The state's unemployment rate fell slightly in June, overcoming a presistent slack in housing related industries and a swelling of the labor force as the regular school year came to a close. Although the increase in construction jobs was close to normal for June, employment gains in other housing related industries, especially lumber and wood products, were well below the seasonal average. A cutback in aluminum production, in response to a world-wide oversupply, contributed to lower payrolls in the primary metals industry. Still, the state jobless rate fell to 9.3 percent in June, from a revised May figure of 9.4 percent. Gradual expansion in aerospace and steady growth in machinery, trade and services spearheaded a better than normal June performance. Usually, the state unemployment rate increases by about 0.4 of a percentage point in June as school aged youth seek summer employment.

The boost in aerospace jobs is consistent with a Boeing forecast earlier this year that its payrolls would expand by 5,300 before the end of 1984. The machinery sector is benefiting from the national boom in capital spending and a steady influx of "high technology" companies seeking access to a well educated state labor force. The expansion in trade and services is part of a long-term trend, aided by a revival in state real personal income. The June strawberry harvest also created thousands of temporary jobs in Western Washington. Overall, total employment in the state rose 28,500 in June, while the number of unemployed individuals increased by 200. Although the number of persons classified as unemployed rose slightly, the number of individuals receiving

	June 1984*	May 1984*	June 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,125.0	2,096.3	2,136.6
Total State Employment	1,926.9	1,898.4	1,906.1
Total Unemployment	198.1	197.9	230.5
State Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.4	10.8
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.2	10.2

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

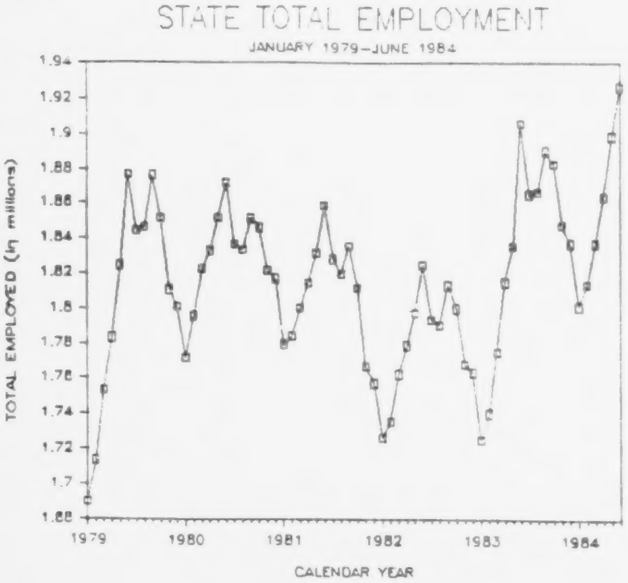
regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits dropped by nearly 4,000 from May to June. During June, when thousands of students ineligible for UI benefits enter the labor market, there is a much larger discrepancy between UI claimant figures and the number of persons officially classified as "unemployed." The latter category includes persons receiving UI benefits plus individuals who are out of work (and actively seeking a job), but not receiving benefits.

On the national level, inflation remained low despite signs that the economy has grown more rapidly than in any previous post-World War II recovery. Second quarter Gross National Product (GNP) jumped 7.5 percent, nearly two percentage points above the preliminary estimate. The absence of high inflation however, should ease pressure on interest rates.

The Commerce Department's Index of Leading Economic Indicators provided evidence that the economy may be cooling. The Index fell 0.9 percent in June. In four of the past ten months, the Index initially registered a dip, only to show a positive change after revision. The June data is therefore ambiguous. Still, the large June drop suggests the Index will still show a decline even after it is revised in the next several weeks. Low inflation and the expectation of a slowdown, if they act as a brake on accelerating interest rates, are favorable omens for the Washington State economy.

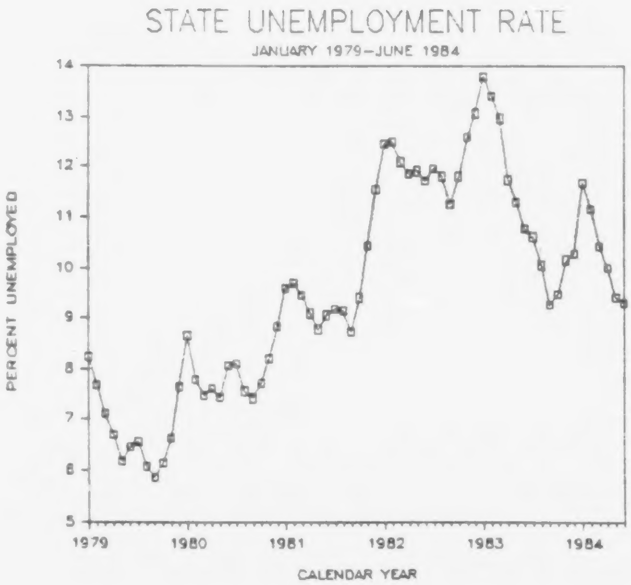
Nationally, the non-adjusted jobless rate rose 0.2 of a percentage point in June to 7.4 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate, however, dropped a huge 0.4 of a percentage point from 7.5 percent in May to 7.1 percent in June. The vigorous June performance in this measure suggests there is still strength in the national recovery, even if leading indicators foreshadow a slowdown. With the exception of impressive national payroll gains in construction, the state and nation show similar patterns in job growth during June and in the several preceeding months. Nationally, the single family housing market recovered much more rapidly than in the state. A strong rebound in apartment, condominium, and public works projects also fueled national job growth in construction, even while mortgage rates edged upward.

CHART 1


STATE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

JANUARY 1979–JUNE 1984

CHART 2


STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

JANUARY 1979–JUNE 1984

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment in Washington State rose by 2,000 in June, about 3,000 to 4,000 below the seasonal norm in a non-recession year. The shortfall was due in part to the continued slump in lumber and wood products caused by higher mortgage rates and a drop in lumber prices. Also contributing to the less than expected June gain was a cutback in aluminum production and an abnormally small increase in food processing payrolls. The latter was due partly to unseasonally cool and wet weather which caused delays in harvesting. A significant pick-up in food processing jobs is expected in July. On the brighter side, hiring in aerospace, machinery, and paper and allied products partially offset disappointing figures from other manufacturing sectors.

Durable Goods Industries

The state's durable goods manufacturing industries continue to benefit from the national boom in capital spending. Total employment in this sector is nearing 200,000, a level last approached in late 1982. A beleagured lumber and wood products sector and a primary metals industry hobbled by world-wide overproduction are preventing an even quicker recovery in durable goods employment. Solid and gradual expansion in aerospace is anchoring the durable goods rebound and providing direction and stability to the general recovery.

Slump Continues in Lumber and Wood Products

The May to June increase in lumber and wood products jobs fell short of seasonal norms for the third straight month. Employment gains in this sector rose 600, compared to past June gains of 1,000 to 2,000 jobs in non-recession years. Low prices for lumber and plywood, resulting from an oversupply and a sluggish Northwest housing market, are still the immediate causes.

Another drop in the lumber prices, recorded in June, precludes a quick turnabout for the industry. Lower priced Canadian lumber imports have combined with rising mortgage rates to drive prices to nearly half the level of late 1979 (in inflation adjusted dollars). Because Canadian firms have access to government timber at a fraction of the price paid by the United States (U.S.), they can undercut U.S. competitors. Firms in the Northwest, where the proximity of markets add negligible transport costs to the price of Canadian lumber, are especially vulnerable. The strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to Canadian currency also adds to Canada's advantage. In an initiative to remedy this situation, the Northwest Independent Forest Manufacturers Association has called for Federal legislation to guarantee a certain share of the domestic market for U.S. lumber mills.

State Court Nullifies Timber Relief Measure

A recent judicial ruling has thwarted a legislative effort to relieve the state's timber companies. In a ruling by the Washington State Supreme Court, a state law that would have allowed 47 timber companies to default on $157 million in state timber cutting contracts, was declared unconstitutional. The contracts were signed when timber prices were high; but a sharp drop in prices made it impossible for the companies to cut the timber at a profit. The State Department of Natural Resources and the Public Lands are searching for a compromise that would provide relief to the industry, while satisfying the court's legal objections. A similar measure, allowing the region's timber producers to turnback Federal timber contracts signed before the precipitous drop in prices, is pending before Congress.

An upturn in lumber production in the Washington-Oregon coastal region during June may signal a halt to further plant closures and significant layoffs. A genuine recovery, however, does not appear likely in the near future.

Aluminum Hurt by Foreign Competition

Employment in primary metals production slipped by 100 in June. Payrolls in this industry normally rise 100 to 400 at this time of year. The shortfall reflects a cutback in aluminum production due to a world wide surplus, aggravated by the strength of the U.S. dollar. The result has been a plunge in ingot prices over the last several months.

Major U.S. aluminum companies have curtailed production by closing potlines at their least cost-effective plants. The Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) temporarily closed two smelters in Vancouver, Washington. Higher electricity costs in the northwest have made aluminum companies in the region more vulnerable to depressed market conditions. These companies are the first to be shut-down and the last to reopen when aluminum prices plunge.

Industry officials estimate that closing and re-starting a potline costs about one million dollars. Once a potline is closed, it usually remains idle for at least six months.

The United States International Trade Commission recently recommended five years of import quotas and additional tariffs to help the ailing domestic steel industry. Timber and primary metals industry officials have advocated similar relief measures for their industries. Opponents of these measures argue that competition from foreign companies holds down the price of domestic goods and stimulates modernization of the production process.

Positive developments in aerospace are cushioning the effects of the timber and metals downturn. An addition of 1,000 jobs in June lifted aerospace payrolls to 64,600. Since the end of 1983, the industry has added 2,700 jobs. If hiring continues at this pace, aerospace will more than equal its projected job growth for the year. Earlier in the year Boeing officials forecast a payroll rise of 5,300 during 1984. High-paying jobs in aerospace indirectly produce jobs in other industries, particulary trade and services. The King-Snohomish labor market area benefits most from this "multiplier effect."

Aerospace Spearheads Manufacturing Recovery

Recent developments paint an optimistic picture for aerospace employment beyond 1984. The Boeing Company signed an agreement in principle with Saudi Arabia to sell $1 billion worth of Boeing 747 aircraft, only the third contract of this magnitude negotiated in the 1980s.

In another positive development for local aerospace, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is expected to pass regulations in October allowing commercial jumbo jets with two engines to cross the Atlantic. The measure is expected to open new commerical doors for the Boeing 767.

In the non-commerical field, Boeing aerospace announced that it had been awarded a contract by the Army to test an early warning airborne system designed to detect enemy missles. The contract, part of the Administration's "star-wars" defense system, as termed by press reports, is worth $289 million to the Boeing Company. Approximately 250 people will work on the system at peak employment in 1985; but many will be transferred from other Boeing divisions to work on the project.

Overall, jobs in the transportation equipment sector increased by only 500 in June. A loss of 500 jobs in shipbuilding partially offset the gain in aerospace. Most of the shipbuilding layoffs were concentrated in a major firm which has cited "slack work" as the reason. Shipbuilding in the U.S. has declined as domestic carriers fight competition from foreign fleets assembled and operated with government assistance.

"High-Tech" Firms Attracted by Well Educated State Labor Force

In other major developments involving durable goods, the machinery sector posted an impressive May to June gain of 300 jobs. Machinery, which includes the "high technology" group, is nearing its employment peak, attained in the first quarter of 1982. This sector now contributes over 28,000 jobs to the state economy. Itron, a "high technology" firm which manufactures computerized on-site billing equipment for utility companies, recently moved its entire operation from Idaho to Spokane, Washington. The quality of the Spokane labor market was cited as a major reason for the relocation. The company plans to expand its workforce from 200 to 300, with most of the new jobs going to Washington State residents.

Nondurable Goods Employment

The largest June increase in non-durable goods was registered in paper and allied products. An addition of 300 to the June payrolls brought this sector within seven percent of its pre-recession June, 1979 level. This is a solid performance for an industry that has lost jobs to the southern part of the country, where labor costs are lower.

Boom and Modernization In Paper Products

Demand for paper products has soared, with copying, data processing, and magazine publication providing the stimulus. Demand should remain strong--or even rise further--as prices for microcomputers and copiers come down. Nationally, the paper business is booming, with the industry operating at 96 percent capacity.

High demand and increased cashflow have induced paper producers to invest heavily in automated plants. Crown-Zellerbach announced a $425 million modernization of its Camas, Washington plant, a move that will facilitiate computerized control and monitoring of the production process. While some jobs may be lost to increased automation, modernization makes it less likely that companies, such as Crown-Zellerbach, will relocate in search of lower labor costs.

Late Harvest Postpones Seasonal Jump in Food Processing

Normally, employment in food processing jumps by 1,000 to 2,000 from May to June. This year, food and kindred products added only 100 workers in June. The shortfall is due partly to delays in planting (caused by abnormally cool and wet weather in the eastern part of the state), setting back the entire harvesting and processing schedule. An early end to seasonal asparagus processing, which boosted payrolls in April and May, also contributed to the depressed June figures for food and kindred products employment. A healthy rise in the July payrolls is expected for this sector.

NONMANUFACTURING

Better Than Expected Rise in Construction Jobs

Employment in contract construction grew by 2,900 jobs during June, slightly below average for this time of year. In light of the sluggish northwest housing market, this is a good performance, helping offset lower than normal gains for April and May. Although comparable figures are not yet available for the state, national data indicate that apartment, condominium, and public works projects are helping stabilize employment in construction. Higher mortgage rates quickly halted the boom in single family housing. The high cost of borrowing, however, has yet to dampen apartment and condominium construction. Financing of these projects involves long lead times, making them less sensitive to short-term fluctuations in interest rates. Nationally, apartment construction in June was up 27.2 percent over May, while the construction of single family dwellings dropped 7.2 percent.

General Employment Recovery Fuels Expansion in Trade and Services

About one-third of the June increase in state total employment was concentrated in trade and service industries. The general employment recovery, which is responsible for the healthy rise in real personal income, has energized this sector. In the Puget Sound labor market area, growth in higher paying aerospace jobs and an upswing in travel and tourism are adding fuel to the trade and services expansion.

Statewide, employment in wholesale and retail trades is 31,000 above the pre-recession June 1979 level. Service industries have added 46,000 jobs in the state during the same period. These gains have more than offset a loss of 30,000 manufacturing sector over the past four years. New jobs in trade and services, however, generally pay lower wages than jobs lost in manufacturing during the 1981-82 recession.

The June rise in trade employment was due mainly to increased patronage of eating and drinking establishments, auto dealerships, food stores, and businesses selling apparel. On the services side, personnel agencies, data processing and computer firms, and other enterprises serving the business community, led the June upswing. A gain of 2,200 jobs in membership organizations (which include summer camps) cushioned a seasonal loss of 2,400 jobs in educational services (including private elementary and secondary schools).

Federal, state, and local governments showed a net increase of 2,400, with most new positions in outdoor related activities, including parks, forests, campgrounds, and other public recreational facilities.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Interest Rate Watchers Buoyed by Low Inflation and Signs of Economic Slowdown

Nationally, the economy continued to grow at a brisk pace in June, but without signs of higher inflation. Fears that an overheated economy would ignite inflation in the second half of 1984 are subsiding. Producer and consumer price indexes rose only modestly in June, confounding forecasters who saw inflation rising in the second or third quarter. (The chart below provides the latest available consumer price index data.)

Lack of evidence that inflation is rising should ease pressure on the Federal Reserve to tighten credit. A June drop in the Department of Commerce's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, which strives to forecast turns in is economic growth, has been another welcome sign to interest rate watchers.

With the exception of persistently large Federal budget deficits, conditions that have fueled inflation and higher interest rates in the past, now seem less threatening.

Lack of Evidence That Inflation Will Ignite is a Positive Sign for State Economy

The price of oil is expected to remain steady, if not decline, as oil reserves grow and exporters demonstrate less inclination to coordinate production and pricing policies. Labor unions and cost conscious employers are tieing wage and benefit gains to productivity. Out-put per worker hour in non-farm businesses rose nationally at a 3.3 percent annual rate in the second quarter, compared with 2.9 percent in the first quarter. Rising productivity offsets rising wages, and holds down prices. During past inflationary spirals, growth in wages and benefits was not usually accompanied by improvements in worker productivity. Another factor holding down inflation is the strength of the American dollar, which forces American business to compete with lower cost foreign products.

If no rise occurs in inflation and interest rates, unemployment in the state should hold steady or drop modestly in succeeding months, even if a weakness appears in consumer spending. The state unemployment rate rises more sharply than the nation's during recessions caused by lower capital spending (as in 1970-71). When lethargy in consumer activity is the cause (as in 1974-75), the state unemployment rate tends to rise less steeply than the nation's.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1967=100)

	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE				
				Year Ending		2 Months Ending		1 Month Ending
	June 1983	May 1984	June 1984	May 1984	June 1984	May 1984	June 1984	June 1984
U.S. City/Average	298.1	309.7	310.7	4.2	4.2	0.8	0.6	0.3
Seattle-Everett	---	313.0	---	4.0	---	0.9	---	---

AREA WAGE SURVEY REPORT AVAILABLE FOR GRAYS HARBOR AND PACIFIC COUNTIES

The Wage Analysis Unit of the Research and Analysis Branch recently completed an occupational wage survey for Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. The survey report, based upon data from 169 establishments, presents wage ranges and averages for clerical, managerial, professional, technical and general occupations. The report, titled "AREA WAGE SURVEY, GRAYS HARBOR AND PACIFIC COUNTIES, MAY 1984," is available on request from Research and Analysis, P.O. Box 46502, Seattle, Washington 98146. Phone (206) 764-6453.

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Jun. 1984 (Prel.)	May. 1984 (Rev.)	Jun. 1983	May. 1983	Change May. 84 to Jun. 84	Change Jun. 83 to Jun. 84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE.....	2,125.0	2,096.3	2,136.6	2,069.5	+28.7	-11.6
EMPLOYMENT......................	1,926.9	1,898.4	1,906.1	1,835.4	+28.5	+20.8
UNEMPLOYMENT....................	198.1	197.9	230.5	234.1	+0.2	-32.4
Percent of Labor Force........	9.3	9.4	10.8	11.3	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Jun. 1984 (Prel.)	May. 1984 (Rev.)	Jun. 1983	May. 1983	Change May. 84 to Jun. 84	Change Jun. 83 to Jun. 84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,653.5	1,635.0	1,611.9	1,581.9	+18.5	+41.6
TOTAL MANUFACTURING...............	287.5	285.5	281.2	277.1	+2.0	+6.3
Durable Goods....................	198.5	197.0	193.8	192.4	+1.5	+4.7
Lumber & Wood Products.........	43.0	4/42.4	43.8	42.2	+0.6	-0.8
Furniture & Fixtures...........	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	0.0	+0.1
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod......	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0	+0.1	+0.3
Primary Metal Industries.......	13.4	13.5	12.6	12.5	-0.1	+0.8
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	8.8	8.9	8.2	8.2	-0.1	+0.6
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.9	9.8	9.3	4/8.9	+0.1	+0.6
Machinery......................	28.2	27.9	25.9	25.6	+0.3	+2.3
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	16.5	16.3	4/15.0	4/14.7	+0.2	+1.5
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	11.7	11.6	10.9	10.9	+0.1	+0.8
Transportation Equipment.......	80.1	79.6	79.5	80.8	+0.5	+0.6
Aerospace.....................	64.6	63.6	63.7	65.0	+1.0	+0.9
Other Transp. Equipment.......	15.5	16.0	15.8	4/15.8	-0.5	-0.3
Instruments & Related Prod.....	9.6	9.6	9.2	9.1	0.0	+0.4
Misc. Manufacturing Ind........	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.1	0.0	+0.4
Nondurable Goods................	89.0	88.5	87.4	84.7	+0.5	+1.6
Food & Kindred Products........	31.6	31.5	33.0	30.9	+0.1	-1.4
Canned & Preserved Foods......	11.5	11.4	12.5	10.4	+0.1	-1.0
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.3	6.3	5.7	5.6	0.0	+0.6
Paper & Allied Products........	16.4	16.1	15.8	15.4	+0.3	+0.6
Printing & Publishing..........	16.5	16.4	15.9	16.1	+0.1	+0.6
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.9	10.9	10.3	10.1	0.0	+0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	4/7.3	4/7.3	6.7	6.6	0.0	+0.6
MINING & QUARRYING...............	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.0	+0.1
CONSTRUCTION.....................	75.7	72.8	75.5	72.3	+2.9	+0.2
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	92.7	91.3	89.5	87.7	+1.4	+3.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	413.5	408.0	399.3	390.3	+5.5	+14.2
Wholesale Trade.................	105.1	103.2	102.2	98.8	+1.9	+2.9
Retail Trade....................	308.4	304.8	297.1	291.5	+3.6	+11.3
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	94.0	93.7	93.1	92.1	+0.3	+0.9
SERVICES.........................	343.7	339.7	331.4	326.9	+4.0	+12.3
GOVERNMENT.......................	343.6	341.2	339.2	332.8	+2.4	+4.4
Federal.........................	69.3	68.4	68.6	67.4	+0.9	+0.7
State & Local...................	274.3	272.8	270.6	265.4	+1.5	+3.7
Education.....................	149.2	150.2	145.1	145.5	-1.0	+4.1
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.3	-0.1	-1.2

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date: July 24, 1984
Benchmark: 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	June 1984 Preliminary 3/				May 1984 Revised				June 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,125,000	1,926,900	198,100	9.3	2,096,300	1,898,400	197,900	9.4	2,136,600	1,906,100	230,500	10.8
Bellingham SMSA	53,600	48,200	5,400	10.1	52,700	47,200	5,500	10.4	53,800	47,900	5,900	11.0
Bremerton SMSA	66,400	61,600	4,800	7.2	65,200	60,500	4,700	7.2	65,500	60,300	5,200	7.9
Olympia SMSA	61,300	55,000	6,300	10.3	59,800	53,800	6,000	10.0	61,900	54,700	7,200	11.6
Seattle-Everett SMSA	927,800	854,100	73,700	7.9	916,400	843,000	73,400	8.0	917,800	826,200	91,600	10.0
Spokane SMSA	159,600	146,300	13,300	8.3	158,200	145,000	13,200	8.3	159,800	144,200	15,600	9.8
Tacoma SMSA	193,900	173,500	20,400	10.5	193,500	173,300	20,200	10.4	196,500	173,000	23,500	12.0
Tri-Cities Area 2/	79,200	69,500	9,700	12.2	77,500	67,900	9,600	12.4	84,900	73,800	11,100	13.1
Yakima SMSA	91,900	79,700	12,200	13.3	95,800	82,800	13,000	13.6	94,900	82,800	12,100	12.8
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,630	33,930	4,700	12.2	37,910	32,810	5,100	13.5	39,380	33,870	5,510	14.0
Adams	9,080	8,040	1,040	11.5	8,520	7,590	930	10.9	9,340	8,240	1,100	11.8
Asotin	8,760	8,000	760	8.7	8,550	7,790	760	8.9	8,980	8,140	840	9.4
Clallam	20,470	18,100	2,370	11.6	19,880	17,600	2,280	11.5	20,450	17,770	2,680	13.1
Clark	96,200	88,170	8,030	8.3	94,410	86,560	7,850	8.3	97,240	87,760	9,480	9.7
Columbia	2,860	2,660	200	7.0	2,740	2,550	190	6.9	2,530	2,300	230	9.1
Cowlitz	33,630	29,520	4,110	12.2	33,060	28,890	4,170	12.6	34,550	29,610	4,940	14.3
Ferry	2,950	2,540	410	13.9	2,820	2,380	440	15.6	3,000	2,560	440	14.7
Garfield	1,580	1,450	130	8.2	1,470	1,340	130	8.8	1,560	1,460	100	6.4
Grant	27,720	24,590	3,130	11.3	26,080	23,080	3,000	11.5	28,360	25,070	3,290	11.6
Grays Harbor	29,700	25,800	3,900	13.1	29,130	25,280	3,850	13.2	32,390	27,940	4,450	13.7
Island	16,540	15,180	1,360	8.2	15,810	14,520	1,290	8.2	16,530	15,010	1,520	9.2
Jefferson	7,150	6,530	620	8.7	6,860	6,260	600	8.7	7,120	6,450	670	9.4
Kittitas	12,390	10,930	1,460	11.8	11,900	10,300	1,600	13.4	12,150	10,820	1,330	10.9
Klickitat	7,860	6,740	1,120	14.2	7,410	6,330	1,080	14.6	7,720	6,620	1,100	14.2
Lewis	26,100	22,780	3,320	12.7	25,330	22,200	3,130	12.4	26,330	22,820	3,510	13.3
Lincoln	5,730	5,520	210	3.7	5,220	5,040	180	3.4	5,820	5,560	260	4.5
Mason	11,450	10,370	1,080	9.4	11,190	10,090	1,100	9.8	11,600	10,240	1,360	11.7
Okanogan	17,110	14,570	2,540	14.8	15,760	13,120	2,640	16.8	18,270	15,330	2,940	16.1
Pacific	7,840	6,700	1,140	14.5	7,810	6,500	1,310	16.8	7,750	6,720	1,030	13.3
Pend Oreille	4,550	3,910	640	14.1	4,420	3,730	690	15.6	4,070	3,330	740	18.2
San Juan	4,310	4,070	240	5.6	3,900	3,650	250	6.4	4,340	4,070	270	6.2
Skagit	35,230	30,370	4,860	13.8	34,320	29,710	4,610	13.4	37,100	32,420	4,680	12.6
Skamania	2,980	2,520	460	15.4	2,820	2,330	490	17.4	3,310	2,750	560	16.9
Stevens	13,270	11,590	1,680	12.7	12,830	10,920	1,910	14.9	13,880	11,750	2,130	15.3
Wahkiakum	1,540	1,460	80	5.2	1,480	1,370	110	7.4	1,410	1,320	90	6.4
Walla Walla	27,900	25,800	2,100	7.5	27,140	25,000	2,140	7.9	28,050	26,030	2,020	7.2
Whitman	17,940	17,310	630	3.5	18,440	17,940	500	2.7	18,130	17,300	830	4.6

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

July 24, 1984
Benchmark 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	June 1984 Preliminary				May 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,084,900	1,889,900	195,000	9.4	2,069,000	1,870,300	198,700	9.6
Bellingham SMSA	52,500	47,200	5,300	10.1	52,000	46,500	5,500	10.6
Bremerton SMSA	65,100	60,400	4,700	7.2	64,300	59,600	4,700	7.3
~~Olympia~~ SMSA	60,100	53,900	6,200	10.3	59,000	53,000	6,000	10.2
King County	716,400	662,000	54,400	7.6	711,300	656,300	55,000	7.7
Snohomish County	193,900	175,700	18,200	9.4	192,900	174,200	18,700	9.7
Spokane SMSA	156,600	143,500	13,100	8.4	156,100	142,800	13,300	8.5
Tacoma SMSA	190,200	170,100	20,100	10.6	190,900	170,700	20,200	10.6
Tri-Cities Area 2/	77,700	68,100	9,600	12.4	76,600	66,900	9,700	12.7
Yakima SMSA	90,200	78,200	12,000	13.3	94,600	81,600	13,000	13.7
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,900	33,280	4,620	12.2	37,450	32,330	5,120	13.7
Adams	8,910	7,890	1,020	11.4	8,400	7,470	930	11.1
Asotin	8,590	7,840	750	8.7	8,430	7,670	760	9.0
Clallam	20,090	17,750	2,340	11.6	19,620	17,340	2,280	11.6
Clark	94,380	86,480	7,900	8.4	93,160	85,280	7,880	8.5
Columbia	2,810	2,610	200	7.1	2,700	2,510	190	7.0
Cowlitz	33,000	28,950	4,050	12.3	32,640	28,460	4,180	12.8
Ferry	2,900	2,490	410	14.1	2,780	2,340	440	15.8
Garfield	1,550	1,420	130	8.4	1,450	1,320	130	9.0
Grant	27,200	24,120	3,080	11.3	25,760	22,740	3,020	11.7
Grays Harbor	29,140	25,300	3,840	13.2	28,770	24,910	3,860	13.4
Island	16,230	14,890	1,340	8.3	15,590	14,300	1,290	8.3
Jefferson	7,010	6,400	610	8.7	6,770	6,170	600	8.9
Kittitas	12,160	10,720	1,440	11.8	11,750	10,140	1,610	13.7
Klickitat	7,710	6,610	1,100	14.3	7,320	6,230	1,090	14.9
Lewis	25,600	22,340	3,260	12.7	25,010	21,870	3,140	12.6
Lincoln	5,620	5,410	210	3.7	5,140	4,960	180	3.5
Mason	11,250	10,180	1,070	9.5	11,050	9,940	1,110	10.0
Okanogan	16,790	14,290	2,500	14.9	15,570	12,920	2,650	17.0
Pacific	7,700	6,570	1,130	14.7	7,710	6,400	1,310	17.0
Pend Oreille	4,470	3,840	630	14.1	4,380	3,680	700	16.0
San Juan	4,230	3,990	240	5.7	3,850	3,600	250	6.5
Skagit	34,570	29,790	4,780	13.8	33,900	29,270	4,630	13.7
Skamania	2,920	2,470	450	15.4	2,780	2,290	490	17.6
Stevens	13,010	11,360	1,650	12.7	12,680	10,760	1,920	15.1
Wahkiakum	1,510	1,430	80	5.3	1,470	1,350	120	8.2
Walla Walla	27,380	25,310	2,070	7.6	26,790	24,640	2,150	8.0
Whitman	17,600	16,980	620	3.5	18,180	17,670	510	2.8

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

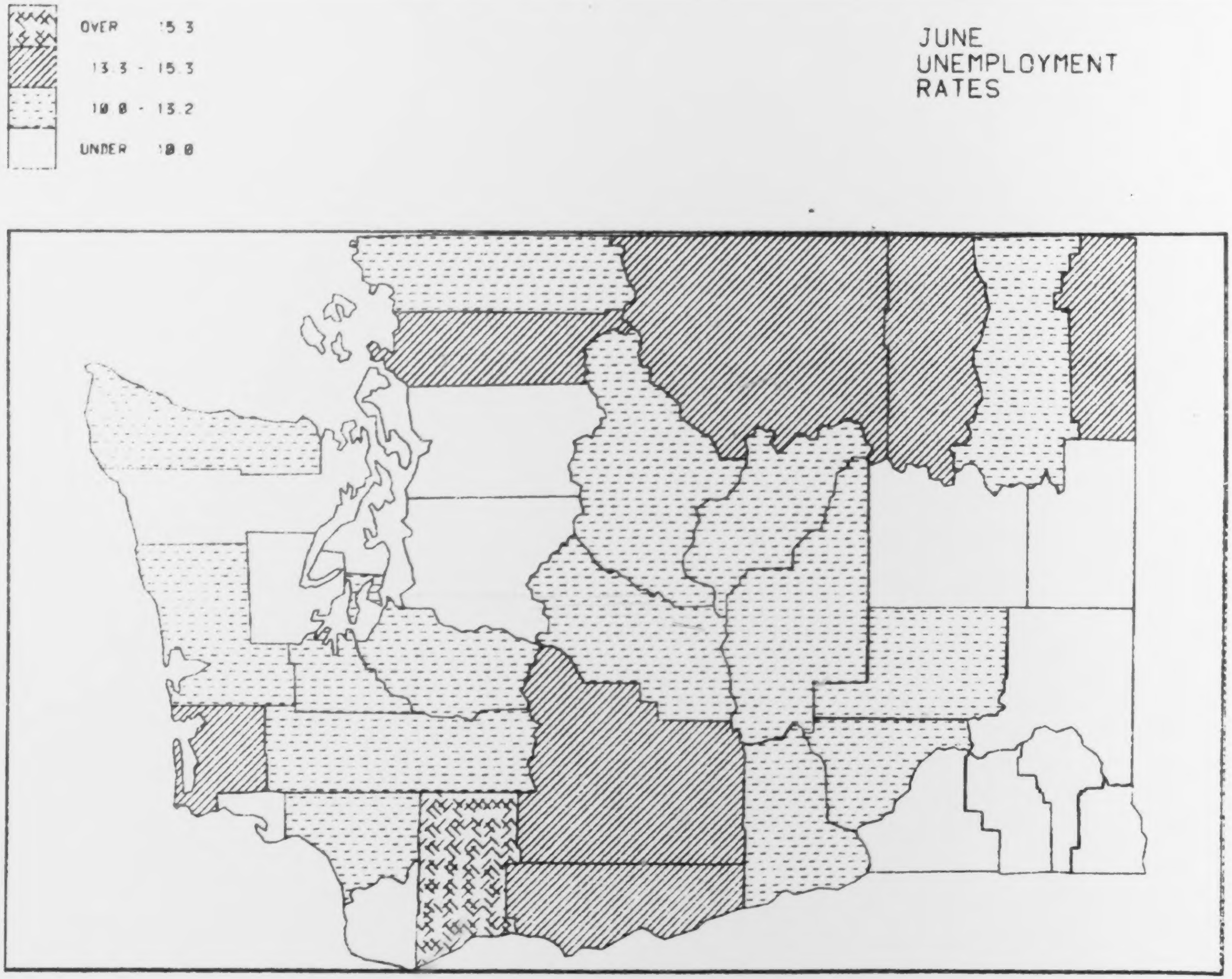
2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	May. 1984 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		May 1984	Apr. 1984	May 1983	May 1984	Apr. 1984	May 1983	May 1984	Apr. 1984	May 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	182,400	$448.53	$454.70	$445.70	38.7	39.3	39.2	$11.59	$11.57	$11.37
Lumber & wood products	38,700	416.99	436.89	449.12	37.0	38.8	39.5	11.27	11.26	11.37
Primary metal industries	10,800	560.70	560.77	555.95	42.0	42.1	42.7	13.35	13.32	13.02
Fabricated metal products	7,200	473.62	481.90	493.29	40.9	41.4	40.6	11.58	11.64	12.15
Machinery	17,400	440.78	409.25	379.66	40.7	39.2	39.1	10.83	10.44	9.71
Food & kindred products	24,100	342.98	354.31	360.40	36.8	37.1	38.3	9.32	9.55	9.41
Chemicals & allied products	5,400	559.01	546.07	530.06	43.2	42.2	43.2	12.94	12.94	12.27
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	54,800	605.73	608.29	642.04	36.6	36.6	36.5	16.55	16.62	17.59
Wholesale and retail trade	253,100	312.36	321.89	314.10	34.1	34.5	34.9	9.16	9.33	9.00

JUNE
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES


OVER 15.3
13.3 - 15.3
10.0 - 13.2
UNDER 10.0

9/24/84 S8340-3 A

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
Research & Analysis Branch
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-5142

in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 8, Number 8 August 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

Seasonal layoffs in public education, continuing gains in two industries that have led the recovery, and losses in two chronically depressed sectors, highlighted July labor market developments in the state. An announcement by The Boeing Company, that it will hire 1,500 more workers than originally forecast, ensures that recovery will continue at least through 1984.

Plagued by a sluggish residential housing market, low-priced Canadian imports, and a regional oversupply, the lumber and wood products sector registered a drop of 600 jobs during July. The industry normally adds to its payrolls this time of year. Shipbuilding, another industry beleaguered by poor market conditions, recorded a loss of at least 225 jobs. Two other sectors--machinery and chemicals--which have performed well during the recovery, posted surprising losses last month. A contract completion at one heavy machinery firm and a temporary (two month) plant closure by a major chemicals producer, alone cost 900 jobs. These setbacks are considered temporary, with payrolls in both industries expected to resume their upward trend in the months ahead.

	July 1984*	June 1984*	July 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,091.7	2,123.7	2,086.8
Total State Employment	1,896.2	1,926.4	1,864.9
Total Unemployment	195.5	197.3	221.9
State Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.3	10.6
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.4	9.4

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

A resurgent airline industry, booming demand for paper products, and vigor in non-residential construction, helped offset losses in lumber, shipbuilding, chemicals, and machinery. These developments yielded a hefty over the month increase in aerospace jobs (+1000), surprising growth in construction trade jobs (+2,400), and another jump in paper products payrolls (+400).

Altogether, Washington's employment recovery stayed on course during July, as the state jobless rate held at 9.3 percent. Although total employment dropped by over 30,000 from June to July, a concurrent drop of 1,800 in the number of persons classified as unemployed, enabled the state's jobless rate to hold steady. The hefty employment loss was concentrated in public education, affecting 28,800 school personnel. Because a majority of these workers do not seek summer employment, they are not categorized as unemployed.

A July increase of about 9,500 in the number of individuals filing regular UI claims was normal for the first month of a new calendar quarter, when thousands of previously unemployed persons become eligible for benefits. These individuals were not counted in the July unemployment figure.

On the national level, a drop in the Department of Commerce's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for the second straight month, fueled expectations of an economic slowdown in early 1985. The July decline of 0.8 percent followed a revised June drop of 1.3 percent. This is the first time since the period preceding the recession that the Index has dropped for two consecutive months. In the past, however, there have been twelve occasions when the Index dropped for two straight months without a recession occurring. (One leading economist quipped that "the Index has predicted eleven of the last five recessions".) On the heels of further evidence that a new round of inflation is not in the offing, the performance of the Index was greeted favorably by interest rate watchers. They see a cooling of the economy as critical to holding down interest rates.

Nationally, the non seasonally adjusted jobless rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point in July to 7.5 percent. The seasonally adjusted measure, however, jumped a huge 0.4 of a percentage point, from 7.1 percent in June to 7.5 percent in July. In the previous month, the adjusted rate had dipped by a similar magnitude. These unusually large monthly swings have been attributed to "statistical anomolies" in the seasonal adjustment method, which cause distortions in month to month data. Both the surge and decline of the past two months were probably overstated. The two month picture--showing a steady unemployment rate between May and July--is more consistent with other national economic data. A July rise in industrial production and personal income is otherwise difficult to explain in light of the sharp drop in the July (seasonally adjusted) jobless rate.

CHART 1

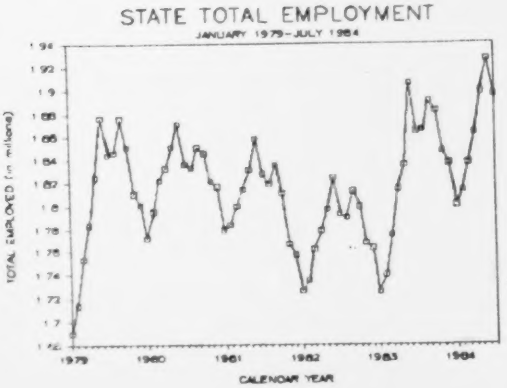
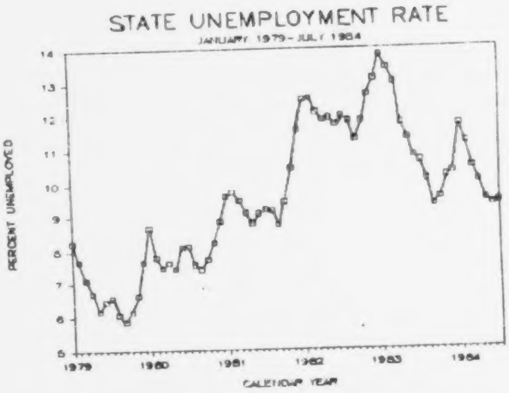


CHART 2



MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Growth in aerospace, sparked by renewed health in the domestic airline industry, continues to bolster an otherwise checkered recovery in the state's manufacturing industries. Two previously stellar performers--chemicals and machinery--posted unexpected job losses in July, adding to chronic ills in shipbuilding and lumber and wood products. Paper products, benefitting from a boom in magazine publishing and in computer and copier paper sales, provided a welcome assist to aerospace in holding net manufacturing losses to only 400 jobs in July. An announcement by The Boeing Company upping its hiring forecast for 1984 painted a brighter manufacturing picture for the future.

Durable Good Industries

Employment in lumber and wood products normally increases from June to July, coinciding with the peak in mid-summer construction activity. Historically, the rise has been in the range of 500 to 1,000 new jobs. This year, July payrolls in lumber and wood products fell by 600. Recovery and expansion has eluded this industry. The culprit has been low prices for lumber, caused by an oversupply, a flood of cheaper Canadian imports, and a sluggish northwest residential housing market. These conditions dictated sharp cutbacks in Washington and Oregon coastal region lumber production. According to the Western Wood Products Association, coastal region production was still fifteen percent "below normal" in early August. The usual late summer slowdown in construction activity means that employment in the industry probably peaked during June, when payrolls stood at 43,200. The July 1984 level of 42,600, is only 600 above July 1982 when the industry and the state were in deep recession.

Sale of Standing Timber To China Signals Greater Access to Asian Markets

Although the short term outlook for northwest lumber is not bright, some hope lies in the cultivation of Asian export markets. China, which suffers from chronic wood shortages, will be a prime target for the industry in the next decade. In an historic agreement that may signal greater access to Asian markets, China recently bought privately owned standing timber in Washington State for the first time. The land had been owned by the St. Regis Corporation. Press accounts, however, did not discuss China's immediate plans for the timber. It is not clear what effect the agreement will have on the state's lumber and wood products labor force.

Electricity Rate Discount To Ease Northwest Aluminum Recession

Recovery has also eluded the region's aluminum industry. A world wide oversupply compounded by higher electricity rates, forced a cutback in northwest aluminum production over the past several months. An electricity rate discount recently announced by the Bonniville Power Authority (BPA), however, should restore some of the jobs sacrificed in the cutback.

According to a Wall Street Journal report, aluminum producers nationally are on the verge of a second major cut in production, as world ingot prices dropped another six cents per pound from June to August. The agreement by the BPA and six northwest aluminum producers, however, should forestall a second round of reductions in the region. In return for committments by the companies to buy more electricity, BPA offered a temporary, eighteen percent, rate discount. Alcoa is now scheduled to increase production by at least one potline, involving an expected October 1st recall of sixty-five workers at its Vancouver, Washington plant. BPA's 1983 rate schedule permits it to offer special incentive rates under "adverse economic conditions," if the effect is to increase sales and raise more revenue for the power company.

Boeing to Hire 1500 More

For the second straight month, a healthy employment gain in aerospace (+1000) was partially offset by a decline in the "other transportation" category (-600), with most of the losses occurring again in the depressed shipbuilding sector.

Aerospace has been the bright performer in a generally listless state manufacturing recovery. Amidst persistent weakness in lumber, metals, and shipbuilding, steady growth in aerospace payrolls has chipped away at the loss of 20,000 basic manufacturing jobs in the state since the 1981-82 recession. "Basic industries" are those which bring dollars into the region through exports or by transactions with other parts of the country. The state's employment recovery has been concentrated in non-basic industries, especially services and wholesale and retail trade. A similar pattern has characterized the national recovery.

Surge in Airline Profits Means More Jobs In Aerospace

With the addition of 1,000 jobs in July, aerospace payrolls in the state have now increased by 3,400 since the end of 1983. On the heels of the July upturn, the Boeing Company announced that the firm will hire 1,500 more people this year than originally predicted. This would bring to 6,800 the total number of expected new jobs for 1984. Most of the additional employees will be recalled from lay-off status. A major ingredient in the state's aerospace recovery has been renewed strength in the domestic commercial airline industry. The airlines, which experienced high fuel prices, deregulation, fare wars, and serious labor-management conflicts over the past decade, posted a dramatic 346 percent climb in second quarter earnings compared to the same period a year ago. These companies are now able to replace old planes. According to a Boeing spokesman, the airlines will also "need to replace hundreds of airplanes when new noise regulations take effect in January 1985."

Coast Guard Withdraws Major Shipbuilding Contract

A spark of optimism earlier in the year about the future of Puget Sound shipbuilding was partially doused by a Coast Guard decision to withdraw a $76.7 million contract from the Marine Power and Equipment Company of Seattle. The contract was challenged in court by a Louisiana firm which argued that Marine Power had failed to meet Coast Guard specifications for the job. Marine Power is reportedly considering a judicial appeal of its own.

Two Bills in Congress May Help Puget Sound Shipbuilding

Deterioration of the domestic commercial shipping industry has made Puget Sound shipbuilding dependent on government contracts. Industry officials are looking to the Shipping Act of 1984 for some relief. The Act, which took effect in June, eases restrictions on United States ocean liner companies to negotiate agreements on prices, routes, and cargos in international shipping. Proponents believe the bill will boost domestic commercial shipping by making the industry more competitive in the international environment, where government sanction of shipping cartels is common. Another bill pending in Congress, which targets loans or subsidies for the construction of fuel-efficient ocean-going vessels, may also help the region's ailing shipbuilding industry.

Fueled by continuing strength in capital spending, payrolls in machinery manufacturing have been restored to pre-recession levels, with a total over-the-year gain of 1,800 jobs. Completion of a contract at one large firm during July, however, resulted in a loss of nearly 400 jobs in machinery. With the national factory operating rate rising to 83 percent last month, capital spending is expected to remain strong through the remainder of the year. The state's heavy machinery sector should at least consolidate its recent employment gains, or resume growth in the months ahead.

Absence of "Unitary Tax" Attracts "High Tech" Firms to State

Electrical and electronics equipment manufacturing, which includes high technology industries, has led the eighteen month recovery in machinery. The outlook for the future is even brighter. Kayocera International of San Diego, a Japanese producer of electrical and computer equipment, will build a plant on 54 acres near Vancouver, Washington. The firm is expected to employ up to 2,000 people. Company officials cited California's practice of taxing a corporation's world wide revenues, as one reason for the move to Washington. This so called "unitary tax" has been heavily opposed by Japanese multi-national corporations. The absence of a unitary tax in Washington has made the state more attractive to companies with world wide operations. Other features of the state taxing system, however, have been criticized by some high technology officials. The state business and occupations tax, which applies to corporate gross receipts rather than just profits, is considered burdensome to some new high technology enterprises. These firms usually have high start-up costs, with considerable losses in the first years of operation.

In another positive development involving high technology, the John Fluke Company has signed a multimillion dollar cooperative agreement with a Chinese instrument factory to produce sophisticated measurement equipment in Sichuan Province. Similar agreements have elicited concern about the loss of domestic manufacturing jobs. Company officials, however, state that kits to produce the instruments in China will be manufactured and supplied by the John Fluke Company, and will include parts made by other U.S. firms.

Nondurable Goods Industries

Paper products (up 400) and chemicals (down 500) posted the largest June to July changes in nondurables manufacturing. The gain in food and kindred products (up 200) was less than expected, but still close to average for the first seven months of the year.

Japanese Chemical Company to Open Plant in Grant County

Chemicals and allied industries have shone during the state's twenty month employment recovery. Current employment in this sector exceeds the July 1979 pre-recession level by nearly seventeen percent. Demand for chemicals used in nuclear plant operations has been a prime ingredient in this exceptional performance. The erosion of crude oil prices and low cost electricity has also stimulated expansion in chemicals. Marple's Business Newsletter reports that a Japanese chemical company purchased eighty-five acres in Grant County, Washington for construction of a plant to manufacture high purity chemicals for electronic and fiber optic industries. The company was reportedly attracted by low power rates offered by the Grant County Public Utility District.

The unexpected July dip in chemicals jobs was due mainly to a temporary plant closure affecting about 500 workers. The plant is supposed to re-open in early September.

Seasonal Gains in Food Processing

Last month's "Washington Labor Market" report observed that delays in planting, which set back the entire harvesting and food processing schedule, and an early end to the asparagus harvest, contributed to a June shortfall in seasonal food processing jobs. A healthy rise was forecast for July. Only 200 new jobs, however, were added to the industry's payrolls last month. Although month to month jumps in food processing employment have not exactly matched the pattern of past years, the payroll gain since January 1984--of 3,400--is just 100 below the average January to July increase of the past eight years.

In other major developments involving nondurables, the paper and allied products sector continued to add new jobs, increasing by 400 in July. Employment in the industry is now only five percent below its July 1979 pre-recession level, and 800 jobs above one year ago. This is impressive for an industry which has lost jobs to automation and to the southern part of the country where labor costs are generally lower. Demand for paper products is still soaring, with copying, data processing, and magazine publishing providing the impetus.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

A large seasonal drop in public education jobs, surprising vigor in construction trades, and stability in the trade and service sectors dominated July developments in nonmanufacturing employment.

Public education jobs fell temporarily by 28,800 during July, as the school year came to a close. This change was responsible for most of the July drop in state total employment.

"Baby Boom" Echo to Enhance Job Opportunities in Public Education

Over the year, payrolls were up slightly in public education during 1984, as state and local government treasuries were partly replenished by the economic recovery. Still, June 1984 public education jobs were about 8,000 below June 1980. The job erosion was due to recession induced cutbacks, as well as to steady enrollment declines in most educational districts. The enrollment trend, however, is about to be reversed this September, as the so called "baby boom echo" takes effect. Children born in the post World War II baby boom reached prime child bearing age in the seventies. Their children are now entering public schools. A state constitutional provision requiring "full funding" of "basic education", plus legally mandated programs for special student populations, are likely to boost public education payrolls in the 1984-1990 period as schools respond to the enrollment challenge.

Gasoline Tax and Restoration of Investor Confidence will Spur Public Works Construction

The most significant jump in July nonmanufacturing jobs occurred in construction. The increase of 2,400 over the previous month is typical for a non-recession year. Considering the sluggish regional residential housing market, the July change is impressive. Nationally, the recent rise in construction jobs has been even more dramatic. Although timely state and regional data are not available, the national recovery in construction is related to strength in commercial/ industrial, public works, and multiple dwelling construction. Availability of funding for these types of projects--in contrast to single family residential construction--is much less sensitive to short term fluctuations in mortgage rates. Across the nation, housing starts fell 6.6 percent from June to July, with starts of single family homes registering a hefty ten percent drop. Apartment construction declined only 1.7 percent.

In Washington State, a July 1st gasoline gax increase has provided additional funds to counties for repair of roads, highways, and sewer systems. Funds available for public works should rise further as investor anxiety over the WPPSS default subsides. As confidence in the state economy is renewed, municipal bond issues from the state and region are expected to increase. These developments should keep the state's construction recovery on track, even if mortgage rates remain high. A sizeable drop in the number of recent municipal bond issues had slowed public construction.

Employment in the trade and services sectors flattened last month. This is typical for July, when the bulk of weather, travel, and tourist related hiring has already taken place.

Normal Growth in Trade And Service Jobs Despite Surge in Tourism Indicators

Indicators prepared by the State Department of Commerce and Economic Development, point to a record year in tourism and travel. According to the state agency, travel inquiries (+105 percent), international air traffic (+21 percent), and hotel occupancy (+6.7 percent) are all higher than one year ago. These changes have been related to a generally stronger economy and to a successful state advertising campaign. Since job growth in retail trades and services has been average for the first two quarters of 1984, new tourist/travel related hiring has either been postponed or has been offset by the much awaited slowdown in (non-tourist) consumer spending. Nationally, retail sales fell a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent in July. Total consumer spending across the nation expanded at less than half the rate of personal income for the second straight month.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Data on aggregate national economic activity reported in July suggest that a cooling of the economy has genuinely begun.

Slowdown Seen as Favorable to Interest Rates

Although forecasters have repeatedly underestimated the strength of the recovery, the consistency of the July figures make the current signals difficult to ignore. In addition to the two month decline in the Index of Leading Indicators, July brought a flattening in consumer spending, a drop in retail sales, and a plunge in the Conference Board's indexes of consumer confidence and buying plans. Production of hardgoods and business equipment, however, surged ahead in July, as factory capacity rates increased again to 83 percent.

These developments appear generally favorable for the state's interest rate sensitive economy. Signs of a slowdown and the failure of inflation to ignite may mean that interest rates have peaked. Residual strength in capital spending should aid the state's manufacturing industries, even while a cooling in consumer activity causes the national unemployment rate to flatten. If these trends persist, the gap between the state and national unemployment rates ought to narrow by the end of 1984.

Low Commodity Prices Help Keep Inflation Down

Inflation and interest rates are still the key to the state's short and long term employment outlook. Thus far the omens are mostly favorable. A strong dollar and heavy commodity exports by debt ridden third world nations are keeping prices low in the U.S. for such basic items as oil, copper, and aluminum. Low prices for commodities at this late stage in the recovery cycle suggests that the economy has not jumped back on the inflationary treadmill. Producer prices, usually a harbinger of future movements in the consumer proce index (CPI), rose 0.3 percent in July, following two months of no change. This translates into a mild 3.3 percent annual producer price inflation rate. Indeed, commodity prices have been so weak, that a small group of economists has voiced concern about possible deflation in the 1984-86 period. Latest CPI data for the U.S. and the Seattle-Everett area are provided below.

On the gloomier side of the inflation/interest rate picture, are persistently large Federal budget deficits and expriring labor contracts in such basic industrial sectors as coal, automobiles, and steel. Unless growth in wages and benefits are accompanied by gains in worker productivity, inflationary pressures from the wage front may appear in 1985-87. The monetarist school of economics holds fast to the belief that rapid growth in the money supply during 1982-83 will result in double digit inflation as early as 1985. They believe that the strong dollar and weak commodity prices are only temporary abberations holding down prices.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1967=100)

	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE				
				Year Ending		2 Months Ending		1 Month Ending
	June 1983	May 1984	June 1984	May 1984	June 1984	May 1984	June 1984	June 1984
U.S. City Average	299.3	310.7	311.7	4.2	4.1	0.6	0.6	0.3
Seattle-Everett	304.0	--	314.3	--	3.4	--	0.4	--

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Jul. 1984 (Prel.)	Jun. 1984 (Rev.)	Jul. 1983	Jun. 1983	Change Jun. 84 to Jul. 84	Change Jul. 83 to Jul. 84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE.....	2,091.7	2,123.7	2,086.8	2,136.6	-32.0	+4.9
EMPLOYMENT.......................	1,896.2	1,926.4	1,864.9	1,906.1	-30.2	+31.3
UNEMPLOYMENT.....................	195.5	197.3	221.9	230.5	-1.8	-26.4
Percent of Labor Force........	9.3	9.3	10.6	10.8	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Jul. 1984 (Prel.)	Jun. 1984 (Rev.)	Jul. 1983	Jun. 1983	Change Jun. 84 to Jul. 84	Change Jul. 83 to Jul. 84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY......	1,633.9	1,652.9	1,585.9	1,611.9	-19.0	+48.0
TOTAL MANUFACTURING...............	286.3	286.7	279.8	281.2	-0.4	+6.5
Durable Goods....................	197.2	197.6	193.1	193.8	-0.4	+4.1
Lumber & Wood Products.........	42.6	43.2	44.1	43.8	-0.6	-1.5
Furniture & Fixtures...........	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	-0.1	0.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod......	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.1	+0.1	+0.3
Primary Metal Industries.......	13.2	13.1	12.9	12.6	+0.1	+0.3
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.2	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products......	9.9	9.8	4/9.4	9.3	+0.1	+0.5
Machinery......................	27.5	27.9	25.7	25.9	-0.4	+1.8
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	15.8	16.2	4/14.9	4/15.0	-0.4	+0.9
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	11.7	11.7	10.8	10.9	0.0	+0.9
Transportation Equipment.......	80.1	79.7	77.9	79.5	+0.4	+2.2
Aerospace.....................	65.3	64.3	62.7	63.7	+1.0	+2.6
Other Transp. Equipment.......	14.8	15.4	15.2	15.8	-0.6	-0.4
Instruments & Related Prod.....	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.2	0.0	+0.2
Misc. Manufacturing Ind........	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	0.0	+0.3
Nondurable Goods................	89.1	89.1	86.7	87.4	0.0	+2.4
Food & Kindred Products........	31.8	31.6	32.0	33.0	+0.2	-0.2
Canned & Preserved Foods......	11.5	11.6	11.7	12.5	-0.1	-0.2
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.3	6.4	5.8	5.7	-0.1	+0.5
Paper & Allied Products........	16.9	16.5	16.1	15.8	+0.4	+0.8
Printing & Publishing..........	16.4	16.4	15.7	15.9	0.0	+0.7
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.4	10.9	10.3	10.3	-0.5	+0.1
Other Nondurable Goods 3/......	4/7.3	4/7.3	6.8	6.7	0.0	+0.5
MINING & QUARRYING...............	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	+0.1	+0.1
CONSTRUCTION.....................	78.5	76.1	4/76.4	75.5	+2.4	+2.1
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES........	93.6	92.7	89.9	89.5	+0.9	+3.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.........	415.6	414.1	400.0	399.3	+1.5	+15.6
Wholesale Trade.................	106.7	105.2	102.9	102.2	+1.5	+3.8
Retail Trade....................	308.9	308.9	297.1	297.1	0.0	+11.8
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE........	94.8	94.3	93.6	93.1	+0.5	+1.2
SERVICES.........................	343.3	344.2	330.5	331.4	-0.9	+12.8
GOVERNMENT.......................	318.9	342.0	312.9	339.2	-23.1	+6.0
Federal.........................	69.7	69.2	69.3	68.6	+0.5	+0.4
State & Local...................	249.2	272.8	243.6	270.6	-23.6	+5.6
Education.....................	118.5	147.3	114.7	145.1	-28.8	+3.8
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)......................	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.0	-0.1

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date: August 26, 1984
Benchmark: 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	July 1984 Preliminary 3/				June 1984 Revised				July 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,091,700	1,896,200	195,500	9.3	2,123,700	1,926,400	197,300	9.3	2,086,800	1,864,900	221,900	10.6
Bellingham SMSA	53,700	48,300	5,400	10.1	53,400	48,000	5,400	10.1	51,800	46,300	5,500	10.6
Bremerton SMSA	65,700	61,100	4,600	7.0	66,300	61,600	4,700	7.1	64,900	59,900	5,000	7.7
Olympia SMSA	59,800	53,600	6,200	10.4	61,200	55,000	6,200	10.1	60,600	53,700	6,900	11.4
Seattle-Everett SMSA	918,200	847,500	70,700	7.7	928,100	854,800	73,300	7.9	906,300	820,300	86,000	9.5
Spokane SMSA	154,500	141,600	12,900	8.3	159,500	146,300	13,200	8.3	155,000	140,600	14,400	9.3
Tacoma SMSA	191,500	171,600	19,900	10.4	193,800	173,600	20,200	10.4	192,900	170,200	22,700	11.8
Tri-Cities Area 2/	74,800	64,200	10,600	14.2	79,200	69,500	9,700	12.2	80,000	69,300	10,700	13.4
Yakima SMSA	94,900	82,400	12,500	13.2	92,000	79,600	12,400	13.5	92,200	79,200	13,000	14.1
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	39,060	34,530	4,530	11.6	38,720	34,020	4,700	12.1	38,940	33,480	5,460	14.0
Adams	7,900	6,750	1,150	14.6	9,080	8,040	1,040	11.5	7,930	6,880	1,050	13.2
Asotin	8,510	7,810	700	8.2	8,750	8,000	750	8.6	8,960	8,200	760	8.5
Clallam	20,220	17,650	2,570	12.7	20,510	18,130	2,380	11.6	20,540	17,750	2,790	13.6
Clark	96,470	87,860	8,610	8.9	95,870	87,930	7,940	8.3	95,950	86,700	9,250	9.6
Columbia	1,830	1,620	210	11.5	2,860	2,660	200	7.0	1,890	1,660	230	12.2
Cowlitz	32,220	28,200	4,020	12.5	33,500	29,430	4,070	12.1	34,660	29,120	5,540	16.0
Ferry	2,720	2,330	390	14.3	2,950	2,540	410	13.9	2,730	2,340	390	14.3
Garfield	1,330	1,240	90	6.8	1,580	1,450	130	8.2	1,320	1,250	70	5.3
Grant	25,560	21,800	3,760	14.7	27,690	24,570	3,120	11.3	25,860	22,060	3,800	14.7
Grays Harbor	29,120	25,120	4,000	13.7	29,870	25,930	3,940	13.2	31,320	27,280	4,040	12.9
Island	15,730	14,490	1,240	7.9	16,490	15,170	1,320	8.0	15,990	14,510	1,480	9.3
Jefferson	7,060	6,450	610	8.6	7,150	6,530	620	8.7	7,020	6,360	660	9.4
Kittitas	10,770	9,500	1,270	11.8	12,390	10,930	1,460	11.8	10,750	9,430	1,320	12.3
Klickitat	7,200	6,350	850	11.8	7,810	6,720	1,090	14.0	7,350	6,390	960	13.1
Lewis	24,990	21,730	3,260	13.0	26,160	22,840	3,320	12.7	25,660	21,870	3,790	14.8
Lincoln	4,870	4,740	130	2.7	5,730	5,520	210	3.7	4,930	4,720	210	4.3
Mason	11,210	10,160	1,050	9.4	11,490	10,380	1,110	9.7	11,330	10,020	1,310	11.6
Okanogan	17,470	14,480	2,990	17.1	17,070	14,510	2,560	15.0	17,580	14,610	2,970	16.9
Pacific	7,630	6,540	1,090	14.3	7,870	6,750	1,120	14.2	7,680	6,680	1,000	13.0
Pend Oreille	4,320	3,750	570	13.2	4,560	3,910	650	14.3	3,920	3,260	660	16.8
San Juan	4,440	4,250	190	4.3	4,350	4,110	240	5.5	4,550	4,280	270	5.9
Skagit	39,360	34,500	4,860	12.3	34,190	29,400	4,790	14.0	36,910	32,700	4,210	11.4
Skamania	2,660	2,240	420	15.8	2,970	2,520	450	15.2	3,290	2,750	540	16.4
Stevens	12,480	10,860	1,620	13.0	13,260	11,590	1,670	12.6	12,530	10,630	1,900	15.2
Wahkiakum	1,420	1,280	140	9.9	1,540	1,460	80	5.2	1,340	1,240	100	7.5
Walla Walla	26,810	24,830	1,980	7.4	27,890	25,810	2,080	7.5	26,590	24,390	2,200	8.3
Whitman	15,220	14,730	490	3.2	17,940	17,310	630	3.5	15,550	14,890	660	4.2

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

August 26, 1984
Benchmark 1983

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

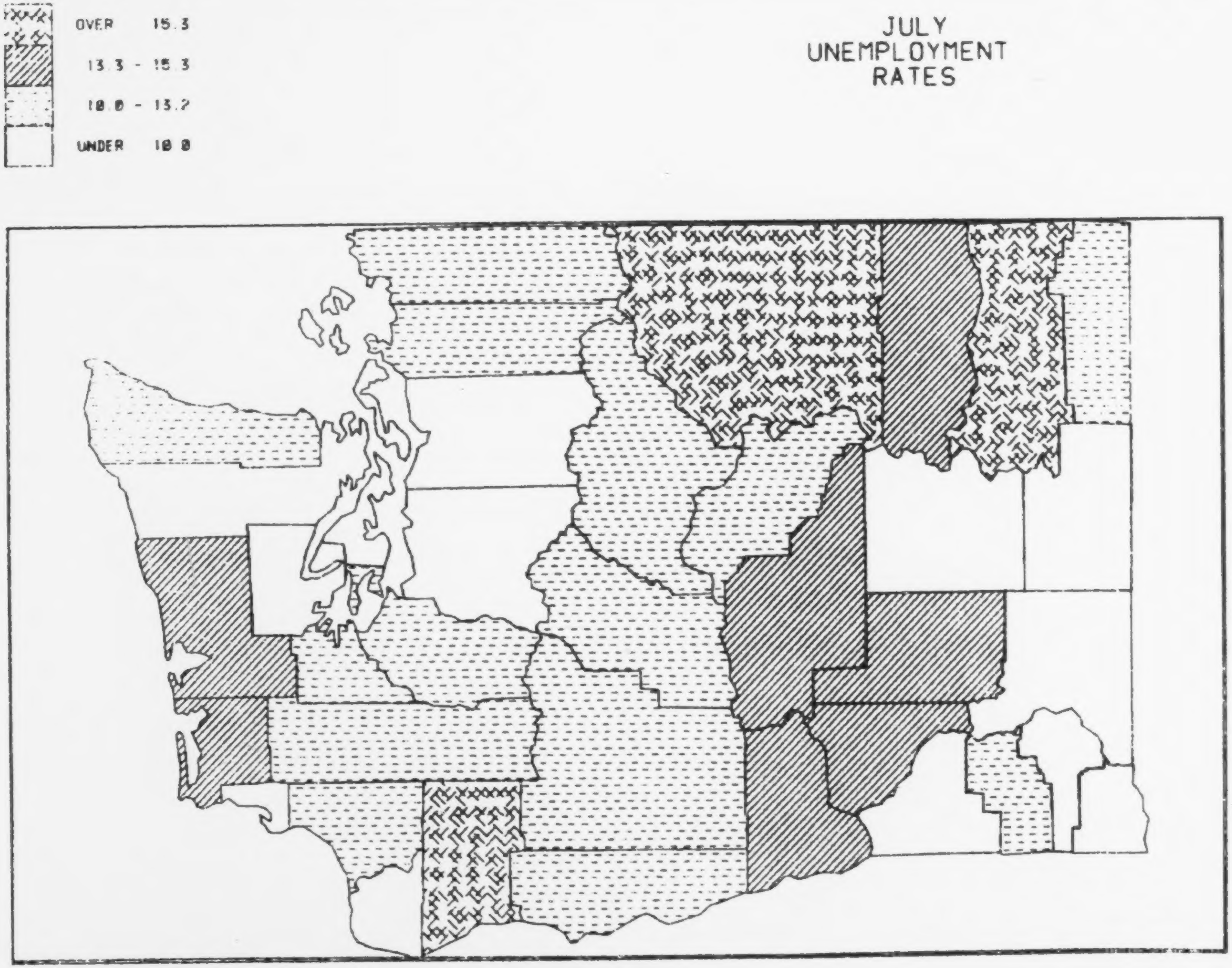
	July 1984 Preliminary				June 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,056,300	1,872,100	184,200	9.0	2,083,700	1,889,500	194,200	9.3
Bellingham SMSA	52,800	47,700	5,100	9.7	52,400	47,100	5,300	10.1
Bremerton SMSA	64,600	60,300	4,300	6.7	65,000	60,400	4,600	7.1
Olympia SMSA	58,700	52,900	5,800	9.9	60,000	53,900	6,100	10.2
Seattle-Everett SMSA	903,300	836,700	66,600	7.4	910,500	838,400	72,100	7.9
King County	712,200	661,200	51,000	7.2	717,700	662,500	55,200	7.7
Snohomish County	191,100	175,500	15,600	8.2	192,800	175,900	16,900	8.8
Spokane SMSA	152,000	139,800	12,200	8.0	156,500	143,500	13,000	8.3
Tacoma SMSA	188,100	169,400	18,700	9.9	190,200	170,300	19,900	10.5
Tri-Cities Area 2/	73,300	63,400	9,900	13.5	77,700	68,100	9,600	12.4
Yakima SMSA	93,200	81,400	11,800	12.7	90,300	78,100	12,200	13.5
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	38,360	34,090	4,270	11.1	37,980	33,360	4,620	12.2
Adams	7,740	6,660	1,080	14.0	8,910	7,890	1,020	11.4
Asotin	8,370	7,710	660	7.9	8,590	7,850	740	8.6
Clallam	19,850	17,430	2,420	12.2	20,120	17,780	2,340	11.6
Clark	94,860	86,740	8,120	8.6	94,060	86,250	7,810	8.3
Columbia	1,790	1,600	190	10.6	2,810	2,610	200	7.1
Cowlitz	31,640	27,850	3,790	12.0	32,880	28,870	4,010	12.2
Ferry	2,660	2,300	360	13.5	2,890	2,490	400	13.8
Garfield	1,300	1,220	80	6.2	1,550	1,420	130	8.4
Grant	25,070	21,520	3,550	14.2	27,180	24,100	3,080	11.3
Grays Harbor	28,570	24,800	3,770	13.2	29,310	25,430	3,880	13.2
Island	15,480	14,310	1,170	7.6	16,180	14,880	1,300	8.0
Jefferson	6,940	6,370	570	8.2	7,020	6,410	610	8.7
Kittitas	10,580	9,380	1,200	11.3	12,160	10,720	1,440	11.8
Klickitat	7,070	6,270	800	11.3	7,670	6,590	1,080	14.1
Lewis	24,520	21,450	3,070	12.5	25,660	22,400	3,260	12.7
Lincoln	4,810	4,680	130	2.7	5,630	5,420	210	3.7
Mason	11,020	10,030	990	9.0	11,270	10,180	1,090	9.7
Okanogan	17,120	14,300	2,820	16.5	16,750	14,230	2,520	15.0
Pacific	7,490	6,460	1,030	13.8	7,730	6,620	1,110	14.4
Pend Oreille	4,240	3,700	540	12.7	4,480	3,840	640	14.3
San Juan	4,380	4,200	180	4.1	4,260	4,030	230	5.4
Skagit	38,640	34,060	4,580	11.9	33,550	28,830	4,720	14.1
Skamania	2,600	2,210	390	15.0	2,920	2,480	440	15.1
Stevens	12,240	10,720	1,520	12.4	13,010	11,370	1,640	12.6
Wahkiakum	1,400	1,270	130	9.3	1,510	1,430	80	5.3
Walla Walla	26,390	24,520	1,870	7.1	27,350	25,310	2,040	7.5
Whitman	15,010	14,540	470	3.1	17,600	16,980	620	3.5

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

JULY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES


OVER 15.3
13.3 - 15.3
10.0 - 13.2
UNDER 10.0

10/19/84 58340-3 A

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 9, Number 8 September, 1984

HIGHLIGHTS

The jobless rate in Washington State fell below nine percent in August for the first time in nearly three years. During August, the percentage of unemployed persons in the state was 8.9 percent, compared to a revised July figure of 9.4 percent. (Data are not seasonally adjusted).

Although total employment slipped by 6,600 in August, the number of individuals classified as "unemployed" fell by 12,000. Most of this decline was due to a normal seasonal withdrawal from the labor force of school aged youth who had participated in the raspberry and strawberry harvests and worked in other temporary agricultural jobs.

August unemployment totals were hardly dented by a drop in public education payrolls of 2,800. Because these workers expect to return to their jobs when the new school year begins, the majority do not actively seek work during the interim, and as a consequence are not counted among the jobless.

With the exception of 1,300 new jobs in aerospace inspired by a resurgent domestic airline industry, all large payroll gains in August were due to seasonal hiring. Food processing (+1,600), construction trades (+1,600), retail trade (+1,200), and service industries (+2,300) led the seasonal upswing.

	Aug 1984* (Prel.)	July 1984* (Rev.)	Aug 1983
Civilian Labor Force	2,076.7	2,095.3	2,075.6
Total State Employment	1,892.6	1,899.2	1,866.5
Total Unemployment	184.1	196.1	209.1
State Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.4	10.1
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.5	9.2

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

Although major labor force transitions last month were within seasonal norms, the decline in the state's jobless rate, of 0.5 of a percentage point, exceeded the average August drop. Over the past decade, the state unemployment rate has fallen by an average of 0.3 of a percentage point during August. The solid August performance this year indicates residual strength in the state employment recovery, even if the national jobless rate has reached a plateau.

The state's employment picture brightened in August despite a continuing recession in lumber and wood products, and a primary metals industry that is still hobbled by foreign competition. A bill passed by Congress allowing a partial turn back of Federal timber cutting contracts signed before the sharp drop in lumber prices, could halt the spate of recent layoffs and plant closures in the industry. Coupled with the temporary electricity rate discount provided to the region's aluminum companies, the immediate future seems brighter for two major sectors that have impeded the state's manufacturing recovery. The timber relief bill, however, still awaits Presidential approval.

On the national level, a drop in the prime lending rate from thirteen percent to 12.75 percent and an increase in the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, highlighted recent activities. Positive movement in the Index, following alarming declines in June and July, eased concerns about the possibility of another recession in mid 1985. The prime lending rate fell in response to a slowdown in business demand for credit, the failure of inflation to ignite, and a general cooling of the national economy. The perception that the economy has shifted into a phase of moderate expansion was supported by the preliminary estimate of third quarter gross national product (GNP), placing recent growth at an annual rate of 3.6 percent. In the first and second quarters, GNP grew at a torrid pace of 10.1 and 7.1 percent respectively.

Nationally, the (seasonally adjusted) unemployment rate held steady during August, consistent with other data signaling a slowdown. Over the past three quarters, the gap between the state and national (seasonally adjusted) jobless rates has narrowed. The difference is currently 2.0 percentage points, compared with 2.2 in the first quarter and 2.3 points in the second quarter of 1984. Chart #2, below, traces state and national jobless rates from the onset of the recession to the present, including the percentage point difference between the two statistics. (Monthly data in this chart have been seasonally adjusted and aggregated into quarters to smooth-out volatile monthly swings.)

CHART 1

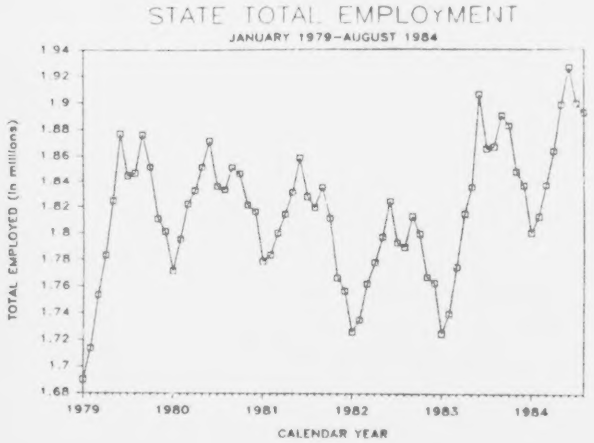
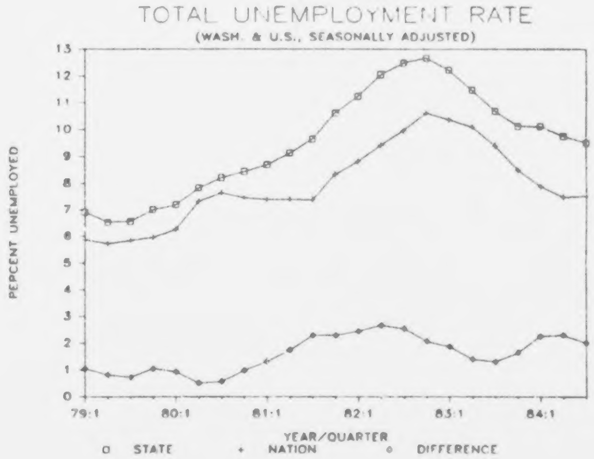


CHART 2



MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Aerospace hiring in response to a rise in demand from a revitalized airline industry, again offset losses in other manufacturing industries. A bill in Congress to allow buy backs of costly Federal timber cutting contracts and a conference with Latin American officials in Seattle to demonstrate the advantages of wood as a homebuilding material, were both aimed at providing relief for the region's timber industry. In the non-durable sector, a big jump in food processing jobs compensated for abnormally low seasonal hiring in June and July.

Durable Good Industries

Aerospace Hires 1,300

Aerospace spearheaded a better than normal August performance in durable goods hiring. Overall, durables manufacturing added 1,400 jobs during the month, with aerospace accounting for 1,300. Aerospace has been a consistent performer in an otherwise erratic state manufacturing recovery. The industry has boosted its payrolls by 5,000 since the end of 1983. If The Boeing Company reaches its own hiring expectations, at least 1,800 more jobs will be added by the industry before the end of 1984.

Airbus Breaks Into American Market

Although the long term outlook is still bright for aerospace, optimism in the industry was dampened slightly by a Pan American announcement that it will acquire more than $1 billion worth of jetliners from Airbus Industries, Boeings chief competitor in the commercial airline market. With 24 mid-sized jetliners still awaiting sale at Airbus' French assembly plant, the European consortium made significant price concessions in its bid to break Boeing's hold on the American market. While Airbus' transaction with Pan American may be a major breakthrough, aerospace analysts praised Boeing for refusing to slash its prices. Most industry analysts believe that the terms of the Pan American sale cannot be profitably duplicated by Airbus in the future.

The healthy August gain in aerospace was partially offset by another drop in lumber and wood products employment. Payrolls in the beleaguered industry fell by 500, compared to a usual August gain of 100 to 400 jobs. At mid-August lumber production in the Washington-Oregon coastal region was still ten percent below normal, reflecting low prices, high inventories, competition from Canadian imports, and a sluggish residential housing market.

With mortgage rates still too high for the average American family, a rebound in homebuilding is not on the horizon. Nationally, spending on construction of single family homes dipped 3.2 percent from July to August, while sales of existing homes in this category plunged 8.1 percent--the sharpest drop in a year.

Timber Looks to Congress and Foreign Markets for Relief

Help for lumber and wood products will need to come from another source. A bill recently passed by Congress may provide some relief. If President Reagan signs the measure, timber companies in the Pacific Northwest will be allowed to buy back a portion of their Federal contracts at a discount. The contracts had been negotiated before the dramatic drop in lumber prices four years ago. As a result, companies have been faced with contracts to cut timber at prices much higher than current or forseeable sales prices. The bill provides a sliding scale for buy out prices, based on the size and financial condition of the company. Industry officials say that failure to relieve companies of their obligations under the Federal contracts, would cause hundreds of additional layoffs and plant closures, with smaller timber companies being harmed the most.

In a joint venture by the public and private sectors to expand foreign markets for regional wood products, lumber producers, homebuilders, and trade representatives held a conference in Seattle with Latin American housing and finance officials. The major objective of the conference was to persuade Latin Americans that wood homes were cheaper, more durable, and more attractive than homes built with masonry and concrete, materials traditionally used in that part of the world.

Washington State Unaffected by Alcoa Cutback

In the primary metals sector, the Aluminum Company of American (ALCOA) announced another nationwide production cutback in response to persistently high inventories and low prices due to overproduction by debt-ridden third world nations. The cutback, however, is not expected to affect Washington State producers. Indeed, ALCOA said last month that it will re-start a potline at its Vancouver, Washington plant in October. The decision to open the potline was in response to a temporary electricity rate discount offered by the Bonneville Power Authority (BPA).

Steel Fabricator to Close at End of Year

Citing "low prices caused by cheap Japanese imports", officials of the Leckenby Company--Seattle's largest steel fabricator--said it will close its structural steel fabrication plant by the end of the year. The closure will affect 275 workers. Earlier, Leckenby employees had agreed to wage cuts in a last resort effort to save the company. Nationally, the Reagan administration proposed trade restraints aimed at lowering the foreign share of the domestic steel market by twenty-five percent. Rejecting an international trade commission (ITC) recommendation for outright import quotas on steel (and other commodities), the Administration said the import reduction would be accomplished through negotiations with foreign governments. While this approach means that the employment picture in metal products will remain gloomy, rejection of import quotas will save jobs in other domestic industries--such as autos and homebuilding--which benefit from low priced steel and other cheap foreign commodities.

Machinery Resumes Upward Trend

A recent Department of Commerce survey confirmed that business still plans to boost investment by about fifteen percent over the next year, despite high interest rates. Continued strength in capital investment, even as consumers activity slows, will help keep the state's durable goods sector on the path of recovery. Heavy machinery in the state, which lost 400 jobs last month due to completion of a large contract at a major firm, resumed its upward trend by adding 300 jobs in August.

Nondurable Goods Industries

Food Processing Adds 1,600 Seasonal Workers

A seasonal jump of 1,600 workers in the food and kindred products industry highlighted August developments in nondurables manufacturing. The gain resulted from a combination of seasonal or other temporary conditions, including acquisition of a new contract by one firm and the return of furloughed workers at another company. A late harvest for certain crops postponed some seasonal hiring in food and kindred products, with the industry posting smaller than normal gains in June and July. The healthy August rise in food processing payrolls means that the industry has added 4,900 jobs since January, about normal for the January-to-August period of a typical year.

Boom in Desk Copiers Could Boost Paper Products Employment

After a steep rise in 1983 and the first half of 1984, production of paper products nationwide finally slowed over the past two months. The number of jobs in the state's paper products sector was unchanged during August, and has probably peaked for the year. Competitive price cutting in the sale of personal desk-top copiers is expected to spark another rise in the demand for paper products, with accompanying growth in payrolls. Rapid technological advancement in the industry, however, means that employment will not expanded at the same rate as production.

NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Surprising Strength in Construction Trades

Jobs in construction trades grew 1,600 during August. This is lower than normal for a non-recession year, but a good performance in light of the depressed residential housing market. High mortgage rates have taken their toll on this category of construction. Federal tax laws enacted in 1981, however, are helping maintain momentum in non-residential and apartment construction. The new tax rules, which provide for more rapid depreciation of commercial buildings, are helping offset the high cost of interest. Many current construction projects in this category were also financed before the upturn in lending rates. (The lead-time for financing of single family residential construction is much shorter.)

These factors have compensated for a depressed residential housing market, minimizing job losses in construction trades. Increased spending on public works by local governments, fueled by a recent hike in the gasoline tax, may have also provided a boost to construction payrolls.

"Back-to-School" Sales will Add Jobs in Retail Trade

The August rise in retail trade jobs (+1,200), fell short of seasonal expectations. Normally, this sector adds between 2,000 and 4,000 jobs at this time of year in response to patronage by vacationers and--later in the summer-to pre-school sales activity in department and apparel stores. The current shortfall may reflect the general retrenchment in consumer spending, following the record pace which initially sparked the recovery. Nationally, retail sales have declined for the past two months. A late August spurt in "back-to-school" consumer activity will likely boost retail trade employment in September.

New Incorporations Spark Hiring in Business Services

Employment in services jumped 2,300 in August, about average for this time of year. A major part of the seasonal gain derives from the late summer proliferation of fairs and carnivals across the state. Business services, which includes data processing consultants, employment agencies, advertising, and building maintenance, accounted for 700 of the additional August jobs in services. Employment in business services has grown steeply and steadily in the latter stages of the recovery. During a recession cost-conscious firms will cut contracted services, such as advertising, and then restore them in the late stages of recovery. Dunn & Bradstreet reports that new business incorporations in Washington State for the first four months of 1984 were 14.3 percent higher than for the same period one year ago. With many new companies on the scene and other firms partaking in the office automation revolution, there has been exceptional demand for business services.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Interest Rates Still a Key Factor in Employment Outlook

The course of interest rates is still the key national variable in the state's employment outlook. A cut in the prime lending rate by major national banks ensures that job gains achieved in twenty months of recovery will at least be conserved during the remainder of 1984. A slight acceleration in the consumer price index (CPI) during August caused some alarm that inflation was beginning to spiral upward, in the fashion of recent recoveries and expansions. Still, the CPI rose last month at an annual rate of 6.2 percent, lower than at similar stages of the post 1970-71, 1974-75, and 1980 recessions. (The latest CPI data is provided in the table below.) Another positive sign for interest rate watchers is the absence of conditions that have ignited inflation in the past. Most notably, worker productivity is outpacing wage increases, and major union contract settlements are emphasizing job security more than wages. The United Auto Workers (UAW) leadership is urging ratification of a contract with General Motors which contains a first year wage increase of only 2.25 percent. Wage settlements in the ten to fifteen percent range were common during the mid and late seventies when inflationary psychology gripped the nation.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1967=100)

	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE				
				Year Ending		2 Months Ending		1 Month Ending
	Aug 1983	July 1984	Aug 1984	July 1984	Aug 1984	July 1984	Aug 1984	Aug 1984
U.S. City Average	300.3	311.7	313.0	4.1	4.2	0.6	0.7	0.4
Seattle-Everett	--	314.3	--	3.4	--	0.4	--	--

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Aug. 1984 (Prel.)	Jul. 1984 (Rev.)	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Change Jul. 84 to Aug. 84	Change Aug. 83 to Aug. 84
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2,076.7	2,095.3	2,075.6	2,086.8	-18.6	+1.1
EMPLOYMENT.................	1,892.6	1,899.2	1,866.5	1,864.9	-6.6	+26.1
UNEMPLOYMENT...............	184.1	196.1	209.1	221.9	-12.0	-25.0
Percent of Labor Force...	8.9	9.4	10.1	10.6	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Aug. 1984 (Prel.)	Jul. 1984 (Rev.)	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Change Jul. 84 to Aug. 84	Change Aug. 83 to Aug. 84
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.	1,643.7	1,636.9	1,581.4	1,585.9	+6.8	+62.3
TOTAL MANUFACTURING.........	290.3	286.8	279.2	279.8	+3.5	+11.1
Durable Goods...............	199.3	197.9	189.4	193.1	+1.4	+9.9
Lumber & Wood Products....	42.0	42.5	43.7	44.1	-0.5	-1.7
Furniture & Fixtures......	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	-0.1	-0.1
Stone Clay & Glass Prod...	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	+0.1	+0.2
Primary Metal Industries..	13.1	13.2	12.8	12.9	-0.1	+0.3
Aluminum Prod.& Proc.....	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Prod.....	9.9	9.9	10.0	4/ 9.4	0.0	-0.1
Machinery.................	28.1	27.8	26.1	25.7	+0.3	+2.0
Machinery exc. Elect.....	16.2	15.9	15.3	4/14.9	+0.3	+0.9
Electrical & Electronic..	11.9	11.9	10.8	10.8	0.0	+1.1
Transportation Equipment..	82.1	80.6	73.2	77.9	+1.5	+8.9
Aerospace...............	66.9	65.6	61.8	62.7	+1.3	+5.1
Other Transp. Equip......	15.2	15.0	4/11.4	15.2	+0.2	+3.8
Instruments & Rel. Prod...	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	0.0	+0.1
Misc. Manufacturing Ind...	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.1	+0.2	+0.3
Nondurable Goods...........	91.0	88.9	89.8	86.7	+2.1	+1.2
Food & Kindred Products...	33.3	31.7	34.6	32.0	+1.6	-1.3
Canned & Preserved Foods.	12.4	11.3	14.3	11.7	+1.1	-1.9
Apparel & Other Text.Prod.	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.8	+0.1	+0.3
Paper & Allied Products...	16.9	16.9	16.0	16.1	0.0	+0.9
Printing & Publishing.....	16.5	16.4	15.9	15.7	+0.1	+0.6
Chemicals & Allied Prod...	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.	7.6	4/ 7.3	6.9	6.8	+0.3	+0.7
MINING & QUARRYING..........	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
CONSTRUCTION................	80.7	79.1	78.1	4/76.4	+1.6	+2.6
TRANS.& PUBLIC UTILITIES....	93.8	93.6	4/85.0	89.9	+0.2	+8.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE....	416.4	414.9	402.5	400.0	+1.5	+13.9
Wholesale Trade............	106.7	106.4	103.6	102.9	+0.3	+3.1
Retail Trade...............	309.7	308.5	4/298.9	297.1	+1.2	+10.8
FIN. INS. & REAL ESTATE.....	94.8	94.9	93.9	93.6	-0.1	+0.9
SERVICES....................	346.7	344.4	331.8	330.5	+2.3	+14.9
GOVERNMENT..................	318.2	320.4	308.1	312.9	-2.2	+10.1
Federal....................	69.6	69.7	69.1	69.3	-0.1	+0.5
State & Local..............	248.6	250.7	239.0	243.6	-2.1	+9.6
Education.................	113.6	116.4	111.5	114.7	-2.8	+2.1
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES)..................	0.0	0.2	0.9	0.3	-0.2	-0.9

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

September 26, 1984
Benchmark 1983

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 1984 Preliminary				July 1984 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,041,300	1,873,700	167,600	8.2	2,059,400	1,874,700	184,700	9.0
Bellingham SMSA	51,000	46,600	4,400	8.6	52,900	47,800	5,100	9.6
Bremerton SMSA	64,200	60,300	3,900	6.1	64,500	60,200	4,300	6.7
Olympia SMSA	58,400	53,300	5,100	8.7	58,700	52,900	5,800	9.9
Seattle-Everett SMSA	903,000	841,900	61,100	6.8	903,400	836,600	66,800	7.4
King County	712,400	665,300	47,100	6.6	712,200	661,100	51,100	7.2
Snohomish County	190,600	176,600	14,000	7.3	191,200	175,500	15,700	8.2
Spokane SMSA	151,200	139,900	11,300	7.5	151,800	139,600	12,200	8.0
Tacoma SMSA	188,500	171,800	16,700	8.9	190,700	171,900	18,800	9.9
Tri-Cities Area 2/	72,100	63,100	9,000	12.5	73,200	63,200	10,000	13.7
Yakima SMSA	91,100	80,500	10,600	11.6	94,000	82,100	11,900	12.7
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,830	33,110	4,720	12.5	38,770	34,460	4,310	11.1
Adams	7,430	6,680	750	10.1	7,750	6,660	1,090	14.1
Asotin	8,290	7,700	590	7.1	8,350	7,690	660	7.9
Clallam	19,520	17,380	2,140	11.0	19,820	17,360	2,460	12.4
Clark	92,780	86,000	6,780	7.3	94,810	86,840	7,970	8.4
Columbia	1,730	1,560	170	9.8	1,790	1,590	200	11.2
Cowlitz	31,340	27,800	3,540	11.3	31,730	27,900	3,830	12.1
Ferry	2,610	2,280	330	12.6	2,660	2,300	360	13.5
Garfield	1,300	1,230	70	5.4	1,310	1,220	90	6.9
Grant	24,070	21,430	2,640	11.0	24,650	21,080	3,570	14.5
Grays Harbor	29,190	25,260	3,930	13.5	29,330	25,530	3,800	13.0
Island	15,440	14,370	1,070	6.9	15,520	14,360	1,160	7.5
Jefferson	6,970	6,490	480	6.9	6,920	6,350	570	8.2
Kittitas	10,770	9,760	1,010	9.4	10,750	9,540	1,210	11.3
Klickitat	7,280	6,370	910	12.5	7,110	6,310	800	11.3
Lewis	24,010	21,280	2,730	11.4	24,750	21,670	3,080	12.4
Lincoln	4,790	4,660	130	2.7	4,800	4,670	130	2.7
Mason	11,150	10,270	880	7.9	11,290	10,270	1,020	9.0
Okanogan	17,170	14,420	2,750	16.0	17,070	14,230	2,840	16.6
Pacific	7,630	6,430	1,200	15.7	7,390	6,360	1,030	13.9
Pend Oreille	4,190	3,710	480	11.5	4,240	3,700	540	12.7
San Juan	4,470	4,310	160	3.6	4,380	4,200	180	4.1
Skagit	34,840	30,950	3,890	11.2	37,400	32,860	4,540	12.1
Skamania	2,790	2,400	390	14.0	2,800	2,390	410	14.6
Stevens	12,230	10,790	1,440	11.8	12,240	10,690	1,550	12.7
Wahkiakum	1,420	1,260	160	11.3	1,390	1,280	110	7.9
Walla Walla	25,590	23,890	1,700	6.6	26,360	24,460	1,900	7.2
Whitman	15,070	14,620	450	3.0	14,970	14,510	460	3.1

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

Date: September 26, 1984
Benchmark: 1983

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

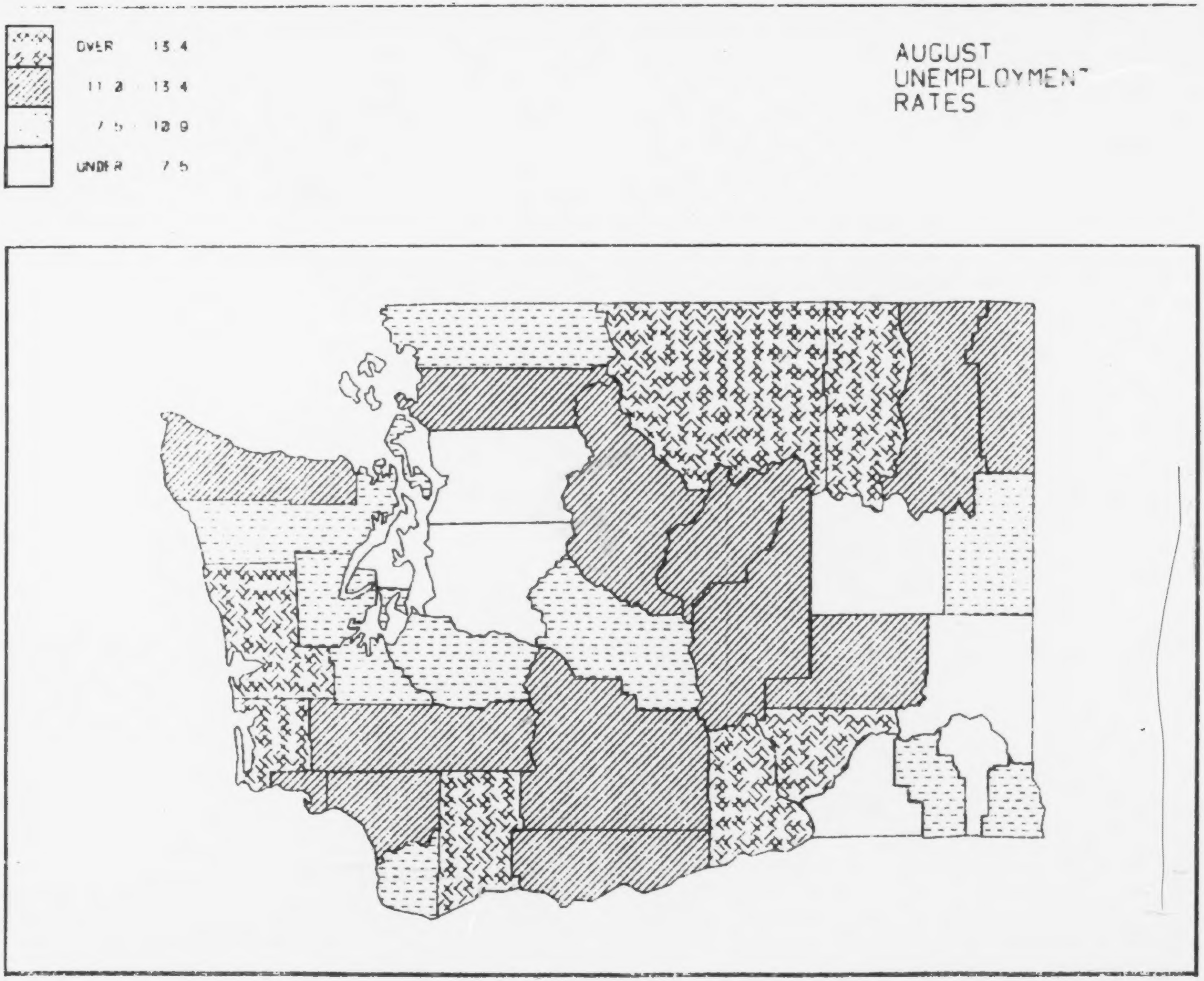
	August 1984 Preliminary 3/				July 1984 Revised				August 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,076,700	1,892,600	184,100	8.9	2,095,300	1,899,200	196,100	9.4	2,075,600	1,866,500	209,100	10.1
Bellingham SMSA	51,900	47,100	4,800	9.2	53,800	48,400	5,400	10.0	50,200	45,600	4,600	9.2
Bremerton SMSA	65,200	60,900	4,300	6.6	65,600	6,1000	4,600	7.0	65,300	60,500	4,800	7.4
Olympia SMSA	59,400	53,800	5,600	9.4	59,800	53,600	6,200	10.4	59,200	52,700	6,500	11.0
Seattle-Everett SMSA	917,500	850,400	67,100	7.3	918,400	847,500	70,900	7.7	907,600	821,900	85,700	9.4
Spokane SMSA	153,700	141,300	12,400	8.1	154,300	141,400	12,900	8.4	154,500	141,100	13,400	8.7
Tacoma SMSA	191,800	173,500	18,300	9.5	194,200	174,200	20,000	10.3	190,300	169,200	21,100	11.1
Tri-Cities Area 2/	73,600	63,700	9,900	13.5	74,600	64,000	10,600	14.2	79,000	68,600	10,400	13.2
Yakima SMSA	93,000	81,300	11,700	12.6	95,800	83,200	12,600	13.2	91,500	80,200	11,300	12.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	38,620	33,440	5,180	13.4	39,490	34,910	4,580	11.6	38,240	32,830	5,410	14.1
Adams	7,570	6,740	830	11.0	7,890	6,740	1,150	14.6	8,390	7,210	1,180	14.1
Asotin	8,420	7,770	650	7.7	8,490	7,790	700	8.2	8,910	8,200	710	8.0
Clallam	19,910	17,560	2,350	11.8	20,210	17,590	2,620	13.0	20,160	17,900	2,260	11.2
Clark	94,300	86,860	7,440	7.9	96,430	87,970	8,460	8.8	94,180	85,690	8,290	8.8
Columbia	1,760	1,580	180	10.2	1,820	1,610	210	11.5	1,790	1,600	190	10.6
Cowlitz	31,960	28,080	3,880	12.1	32,330	28,270	4,060	12.6	33,220	29,080	4,140	12.5
Ferry	2,660	2,300	360	13.5	2,710	2,330	380	14.0	2,640	2,300	340	12.9
Garfield	1,320	1,240	80	6.1	1,320	1,230	90	6.8	1,340	1,260	80	6.0
Grant	24,550	21,650	2,900	11.8	25,140	21,350	3,790	15.1	26,070	22,540	3,530	13.5
Grays Harbor	29,830	25,510	4,320	14.5	29,890	25,860	4,030	13.5	31,130	27,240	3,890	12.5
Island	15,690	14,510	1,180	7.5	15,770	14,540	1,230	7.8	15,960	14,660	1,300	8.1
Jefferson	7,080	6,550	530	7.5	7,040	6,430	610	8.7	7,070	6,470	600	8.5
Kittitas	10,970	9,860	1,110	10.1	10,940	9,660	1,280	11.7	11,010	9,950	1,060	9.6
Klickitat	7,440	6,440	1,000	13.4	7,240	6,390	850	11.7	7,200	6,380	820	11.4
Lewis	24,500	21,500	3,000	12.2	25,220	21,950	3,270	13.0	24,770	21,740	3,030	12.2
Lincoln	4,850	4,710	140	2.9	4,870	4,730	140	2.9	4,900	4,720	180	3.7
Mason	11,340	10,370	970	8.6	11,490	10,410	1,080	9.4	11,130	9,950	1,180	10.6
Okanogan	17,590	14,560	3,030	17.2	17,430	14,420	3,010	17.3	17,340	14,390	2,950	17.0
Pacific	7,820	6,500	1,320	16.9	7,530	6,440	1,090	14.5	7,770	6,730	1,040	13.4
Pend Oreille	4,270	3,750	520	12.2	4,310	3,740	570	13.2	3,910	3,310	600	15.3
San Juan	4,530	4,350	180	4.0	4,450	4,260	190	4.3	4,770	4,530	240	5.0
Skagit	35,530	31,260	4,270	12.0	38,100	33,280	4,820	12.7	37,130	33,490	3,640	9.8
Skamania	2,850	2,420	430	15.1	2,860	2,420	440	15.4	3,120	2,690	430	13.8
Stevens	12,490	10,900	1,590	12.7	12,480	10,830	1,650	13.2	12,100	10,480	1,620	13.4
Wahkiakum	1,440	1,270	170	11.8	1,410	1,300	110	7.8	1,400	1,240	160	11.4
Walla Walla	26,000	24,130	1,870	7.2	26,790	24,770	2,020	7.5	26,580	24,670	1,910	7.2
Whitman	15,250	14,760	490	3.2	15,190	14,700	490	3.2	15,890	15,330	560	3.5

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin Counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch


OVER 13.4
11.0 13.4
7.5 10.9
UNDER 7.5
AUGUST
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES